



Plan of Management and Master Plan

for Hammond Park

Revision E
September 2023

We acknowledge the traditional
custodians of the land on
which Hammond Park and the
Inner West Council area
is located, the
Gadigal and Wangal Peoples.

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Further Information

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Front cover image:
Photography by Welsh + Major.

Document Control

Date:	Revision No:	Revision details:	Approved:
02/12/2022	-	Draft issue for client review	XX
10/02/2023	A	Minor Amendments	DW
27/03/2023	B	Sections 2 and 4 combined; Leases and Licences updated	DW
26/04/2023	C	Land Categorisation map added; minor text amendments	DW
11/08/2023	D	Changes to masterplan, including retention of cricket pitch, deletion of proposed basketball 'D', upgrade of existing amenities and new kiosk; other minor amendments	DW
25/09/2023	E	Minor Amendment to cricket pitch and amenities descriptions	DW

Introduction + Executive Summary

Inner West Council have produced a Plan of Management priority list identifying which open spaces within the Inner West LGA are in greatest need of review. In 2022, Welsh + Major were engaged by Inner West Council to develop Plans of Management and accompanying Master Plans for the five top priority parks.

This document contains a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Hammond Park. Hammond Park is located in Ashfield and is bounded by Lucy and Henry Street to the north, and Fredrick Street to the south. It consists of 4.6 acres (1.7 ha).

Plan of Management

The Plan of Management [POM] is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years.

Master Plan

The Master Plan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the site over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of Management can be translated into site specific gestures for application to the park.

How to use this document

Development of the POM and Master Plan involved some overlap of research and analysis. As such the POM and Master Plan were undertaken simultaneously, and are presented together within the same document.

Developing the Plan of Management and Master Plan involved the following processes:

- Policy review identifying the opportunities and constraints presented by national and local government initiatives.
- Demographic review identifying the local community profile.
- Review of site ownership and legal categorisation.
- Identification of applicable statutory conditions and legislation.
- Undertaking a detailed site analysis.
- Undertaking Community Engagement through drop in sessions and an online survey.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Context Review, Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes to develop Key Objectives and Strategies for management and action.
- Application of the physical strategies within the Draft Master Plan

Key features of the Master Plan:

01 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths

- 02 Low level consistent path lighting around circuit track
- 03 Dead trees removed and replaced
- 04 Existing understorey planting along Henry Street maintained, additional native planting introduced to Henry and Frederick street edges
- 05 Mulch corner at intersection of Lucy + Henry Streets replaced with native planting, with fence extended to deter illegal dumping
- 06 Existing paths from Henry Street into Hammond Park paved and graded to be fully accessible
- 07 New ball fence along Frederick Street and Henry Street, set back from existing trees at park boundary

08 Forecourt and park 'hub'

With consolidated signage and pocket parkland with benches and picnic tables

- 09 Condition of existing tennis court monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

10 Upgraded amenities block

Upgrade and expand existing amenities to include toilets changing rooms and storage areas for sporting teams that are accessible and inclusive

11 A new (community run) kiosk building

- 12 Condition of existing play area monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

13 Sports ground upgraded

Natural turf sports ground graded, adequate drainage underlay installed and consistent maintenance programme implemented

- 14 Replace current cricket pitch in its current location with either a new "synthetic" or "roll out" pitch.
- 15 Hybrid turf trialled in high wear areas (eg goal mouths)
- 16 Condition of existing flood lighting to sports ground monitored, maintained and upgraded as required. Enable text message activation system as per tennis court lighting

17 Bike Track

Bike track for learner riders incorporates creative surface treatment and local history interpretation

- 18 New tables and benches around sports ground sidelines
- 19 Entrance arbour used for interpretation signage, including park map, instructional and historical information about Hammond Park

Plan of Management Stakeholder Targets and Activities

The Plan of Management Process has a number of engagement targets both internally and externally. These Include:

Community and External Stakeholders:

- The Local Inner West community
- Neighbouring properties
- Sports clubs
- User groups

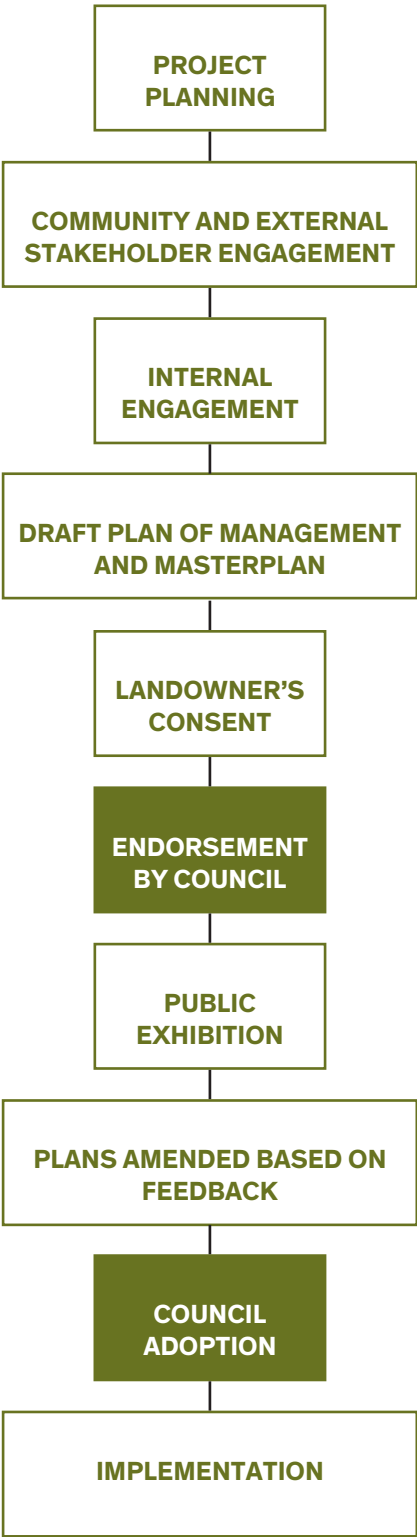
Activities Include:

- Onsite drop-in sessions
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion

Internal (Council) Activities Include:

- Internal workshops
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion
- Meetings, phone calls, and written submissions

The Plan of Management Process: Stages

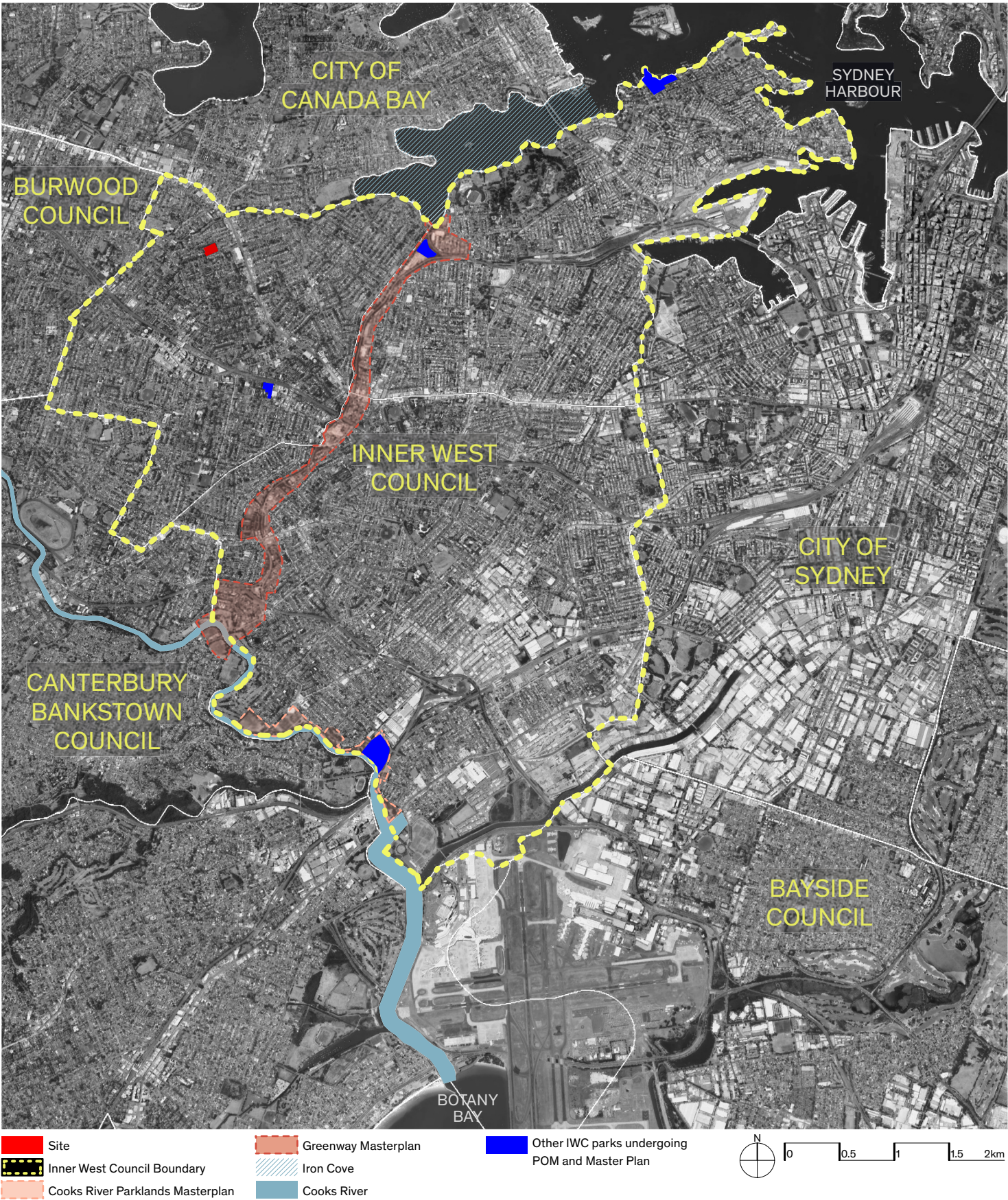


1.0 Context Overview



Looking towards oval from Henry Street. Photography by Welsh + Major.





Regional Context

Inner West Council

The Inner West Council area is located five kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD). It was established when the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016. Five wards make up the council: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Stanmore.

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km² from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west.

In total (including non-Council owned land), there is 321.6 hectares of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.1% of the total land area. Based on the 2016 population, this equates to 16.4m² of open space provision per person.

There are 278 Council-owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds, totalling 256 hectares. This makes up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West.

Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, published in 2018 and then updated in October 2021, is a study commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 providing an analysis of the existing recreation facilities within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage. The document breaks down the Inner West into 4 catchment areas to provide accurate information regarding the future needs of each catchment.

Hammond Park lies within Catchment 2 - West.

The Inner West community is expected to grow with an additional 34,815 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 16.4m² to 14.3m² per person within this timeframe.

Population growth will also result in additional pressure on current sporting and recreational facilities, and it is anticipated that additional facilities will be needed, and that current facilities will be required to intensify their usage to meet demand.

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 3 summer sporting grounds
- 5 winter sporting grounds
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 9 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 0.9 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 0.6 indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- 0.5 skate park/facility.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this Study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and state participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, state and national level.

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in "active recreation" activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly.

This was followed by personal fitness, with 66% of people participating at least weekly.

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in "passive recreation" but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 18 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.

	Walking (Most popular activity in the survey with 34% participating at least weekly, 3 rd most popular in the community map, 5 th in the school workshops, popular in the multicultural focus groups)
	Walking for transport (2 nd in the survey with 24% participating at least weekly)
	Playing in a playground/playing in a park/taking children to play (3 rd in the survey (24%), 5 th in the community map, 4 th in the school workshops, high in multicultural focus groups)
	Personal fitness/outdoor fitness (4 th in the survey with 23% participating at least weekly)
	Walking the dog (5 th most popular in the survey (23%), 4 th most popular in the community map, 6 th in the school workshops)
	Cycling (6 th in the survey (19%), 2 nd in the community map, 3 rd in the school workshops)
	Swimming (7 th in the survey (19%), most popular activity in the community map and school workshops)
	Running (8 th in the survey with 18% participating at least weekly)
	Relaxing in a park (9 th in the survey with 16% participating at least weekly)
	Hockey* (10 th in the survey with 13%). *It should be noted that the survey was completed by a high number of hockey players.)
	Football (11 th in the survey (10%), 2 nd in the school workshops)
	Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton were also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.

Figure 18 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities:

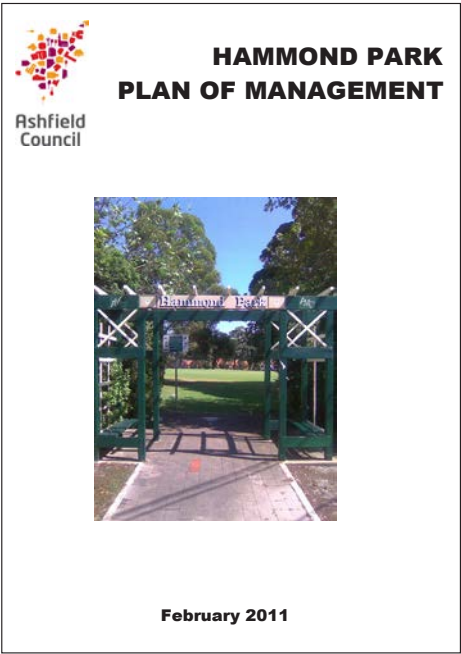
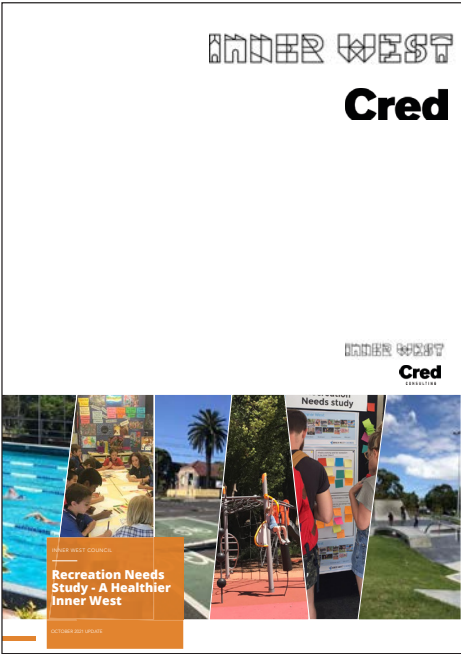
- Footpaths, streets and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park
- Ashfield Park

Key differences between different groups:

- Females used children's playgrounds, aquatic centres and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, sporting fields and courts, and the Greenway more often than females.
- People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly than the general community.

The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West:

	Parks (80% of people using them at least weekly)
	Footpaths, streets and town centres (75% at least weekly)
	Sporting fields/courts (38% at least weekly)
	Aquatic centres/baths (37% at least weekly)
	Children's playgrounds (36% at least weekly)



Reviewed Documents

Our Inner West 2036; The Inner West Community Strategic Plan (endorsed by council 06/2022)

This plan identifies the community's vision for the future, outlines long term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards that vision. It guides all of Council's plans, policies and budgets.

The strategic directions set out are:

- 1 - An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 - Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 3 - Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 - Healthy, resilient and caring communities
- 5 - Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: connected natural areas + increased biodiversity, improved health of waterways, public infrastructure which fulfils the needs of diverse communities, safe networks of transport.

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/2018, (Updated Oct 2021)

This study is an analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community, with a view to both maintaining and improving social and mental health as the population of the Inner West Council (IWC) area continues on its projected path of growth and change.

The study identified that the IWC area lacked sufficient public open space for the growing population. It outlines a strategic 'action' framework and explores how this framework could be applied.

The study undertook extensive engagement with the community to determine both recreational participation within the inner west as well as comments and suggestions about the quality of public open space within the LGA. These findings form a body of information about community needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

Other Documents Reviewed:

- Hammond Park Plan of Management - (former) Ashfield Council adopted Feb 2011
- Going Places - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Inner West, adopted March 2020
- Ashfield Local Environment Plan 2013
- Comprehensive Inner West DCP 2016 for Ashbury, Ashfield, Croydon, Croydon Park, Haberfield, Hurlstone Park and Summer Hill
- Inner West Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan, August 2021
- Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020
- Inner West Council Local Environment Plan 2022

Our Inner West 2036



SD1 – An ecologically sustainable Inner West

1. The Inner West community is recognised for its leadership in sustainability and tackling climate change

- Provide the community the information, knowledge, and tools for a sustainable Inner West
- Share successes and publicise community and Council achievements in sustainability

2. An increasing and resilient network of green corridors provide habitat for plants and animals

- Maintain and increase Inner West's urban tree canopy
- Manage and improve Inner West's mid and understorey vegetation
- Protect, connect and enhance natural areas, biodiversity corridors and sensitive habitat

3. Waterways are healthy and the community is water-sensitive, treating water as a precious resource

- Implement water-sensitive policies and projects to improve the health of our waterways
- Capture and use water from Inner West catchments
- Identify and plan for river swimming sites

4. Air quality is good and air pollution is managed effectively

- Improve air quality through effective regulation and education
- Facilitate alternatives to private motor vehicle use to reduce exhaust emissions
- Minimise air pollution through policy and regulation

5. Inner West is zero emissions, climate adapted and resilient to the changing climate

- Respond to the Climate Emergency and implement the Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop and implement a whole of Council climate adaptation strategy to build resilience to the changing climate

6. Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy

- Move towards a circular economy to avoid waste, reuse, share and recycle through education, information, projects and initiatives
- Publicise and broaden access to local reuse and recycling infrastructure
- Increase recovery of organic material and provide a food organics recycling service to all households



SD2 – Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

1. Development is designed for sustainability, net zero and improves health and wellbeing of the community

- Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to benefit community and local environment needs
- Monitor local development and ensure it meets legislative requirements for safety and amenity

2. The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced

- Provide clear and consistent planning and management that respects heritage, accessibility and the distinct characters of urban centres

3. Public spaces are welcoming, accessible, clean and safe

- Plan, deliver and maintain public spaces and infrastructure that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life
- Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces
- Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces and provision of additional public and open spaces

4. People have a roof over their head and a safe, secure place to call home

- Increase social, community and affordable, livable housing with good amenity, across the Inner West

- Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments
- Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough

5. Public transport is reliable, accessible and interconnected

- Improve public transport services
- Provide transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth

6. People walk, cycle and move around the Inner West with ease

- Deliver safe, connected and well-maintained networks of transport infrastructure
- Manage the road network to increase safety and prioritise active and public transport over private motor vehicles
- Collaborate on innovative, accessible transport options



SD3 – Creative communities and a strong economy

1. Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated

- Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and culture and pursue creative lives
- Celebrate and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage

2. Inner West remains the engine room of creative industries and services

- Promote the Inner West as a leading destination for creativity including street art, live music and performance
- Enable creative and cultural industries to thrive through targeted investment and support
- Build new content, audiences and professional opportunities through local programs, including for young and emerging creatives

3. The local economy is thriving

- Assist businesses growth, innovation and improvement
- Encourage new enterprises in Inner West

4. Employment is diverse and accessible

- Manage the strategic future of industrial and employment lands
- Collaborate with business and industry on social and environmental initiatives



SD4 – Healthy, resilient and caring communities

1. The Inner West community is welcoming and connected

- Celebrate, value and respect the diversity of the Inner West community
- Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life
- Address social inequity, obstacles to participation and social exclusion

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and culture flourish and enrich the Inner West

- Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander needs and voices at the heart of initiatives, policies and strategies

- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history

3. People have opportunities to participate, and develop their health and wellbeing

- Provide facilities, spaces and programs that support community health and wellbeing
- Build connected communities and provide opportunities for social participation

4. People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life and all abilities

- Plan and deliver infrastructure and services for the changing population and those with disabilities
- Provide quality children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning
- Provide facilities, resources and activities for lifelong learning
- Improve the quality and use of existing community assets



SD5 – Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

1. Council is responsive and service-focused

- Deliver responsive and innovative customer service
- Monitor performance and implement continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of the community

2. Council makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities

- Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision

making, reflective of community needs and aspirations

- Ensure probity and responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government
- Manage public resources to achieve financial sustainability

3. People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem solving

- Inform communities through multi-channel communications
- Support local democracy through inclusive participatory community engagement

- Support evidence-based Council decision-making

4. Partnerships and collaboration are valued and enhance community leadership creating positive change

- Advocate for emerging community issues
- Build resilience and capacity of local leaders, groups and communities
- Work with suppliers to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment

Recreation Needs Study – A Healthier Inner West

Key Findings:

A number of findings about recreation within the Inner West are highlighted by the report. These include its benefits and its changing perception and role within society generally. These have assisted in providing a foundation for the strategies and objectives of this Plan of Management and Master Plan. A summary of the key findings includes;

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people.
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits.
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week.
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West.
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation.
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

Open Spaces:

The study indicates that Ashfield, falling into Catchment 2, has a below average provision of public space per person at 10.2m² and an expected 8.7m² per person by 2036. The benchmark for the combined LGA in 2036, as stated in this study, is 14.3m² per person.

Sporting Capacity:

The study indicates the sporting ground of Hammond Park having an optimal capacity of 30 hours of use per week, which ensures a usable surface. The study suggests that the field is being used for 28 hours each week, close to it’s maximum capacity. The study indicates that it was last upgraded in 2018.

By 2036, Catchment 2 will have a gap of:

- 2.2 summer sporting fields
- 6 winter sporting fields
- 1.5 outdoor multipurpose courts
- 0.7 indoor leisure centres
- 2.7 indoor multipurpose courts
- 0.4 indoor aquatic centres

Objectives:

The report found a number of opportunities for improving recreational spaces within the LGA through a needs and gaps analysis. These opportunities were grouped into broad themes. Key opportunities which relate to the scope of this Plan of Management have been summarised below.

NEED
Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs
Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.
Picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings, as well as informal grassed passive recreation areas.

OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users• Extend the Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020 recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.

New facilities in parks including: table tennis tables; outdoor gyms including for seniors, and hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment and designated areas for a diverse range of outdoor activities.
Lighting and design of parks to increase (feelings of) safety. Lighting should be fauna-friendly and use sustainable technologies to support environmental outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street lighting around perimeter to connect park with surrounding streets and to Ashfield CBD.
Improved lighting to support evening and night time recreation opportunities after work hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting in specific areas of park for informal night time use, e.g. dog walking, running paths and areas for informal sport.
Improved walkable connections to open space and recreation opportunities .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved connections to Elkington Park from the Balmain town centre
Improving sporting building infrastructure, amenities blocks to increase usability and support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access paths to Dawn Fraser Baths, specifically to provide safe accessible entry.
Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review throughout the LGA.
Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.
Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes • Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/ junk play. • Include inclusive play equipment in all playgrounds, rather than only in some dedicated inclusive playgrounds.
Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath improvements, specifically to consider steepness of paths into the park. • More recreation opportunities for older people.
Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable night time use including for informal activities.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with a disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities in parks, for example in new amenities buildings. • Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation opportunities located close to public transport and promoted in community languages • Recreation programs targeting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds • Recreation opportunities that reflect popular activities
New off leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play; Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off leash areas; Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement. • Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict e.g. planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.

2.0 Categorisation / Ownership, Statutory Conditions and Legislation



View towards planting along Lucy Street. Photography by Welsh + Major.



Lots and Zoning



Land Categorisation + Ownership

Community Land - Local Government Act Requirements

Public land as defined under the Local Government Act 1993, must be classified as either community or operational land.

All land within Hammond Park is owned by IWC and is classified as Community Land. Community Land is generally public park land set aside for community use. Development and use of this land is subject to strict controls set out in the Act such as Community Land cannot be sold, or leased or licensed for more than 30 years. In addition to these controls, the Act requires councils to have plans of management for all Community lands.

A plan of management places Community Land into categories which impact how they can be used. The Plan must categorise the land from five categories: Natural Area, Area of Cultural Significance, Park, Sportsground and General Community Use. Community Land is still subject to zoning controls and a plan of management operates as an additional control over that piece of land.

The Community Land within Hammond Park falls into the category Sportsground, detailed in the table below:

Category	Core objectives (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993)
PARK	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public— (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).
SPORTS GROUND	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Lot/DP	Name & Location	Current Management & Agreement Recommendations	Ownership & Classification	Area	Notes
Lot 1 DP 65178	Hammond Park, 34 Henry St	Inner West Council	Inner West Council; Sportsground	11077m2	-
Lot 3-9 DP 433	Hammond Park, 34 Henry St	Inner West Council	Inner West Council; Sportsground	5248m2	-
Lot 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A DP 1455	Hammond Park, 34 Henry St	Inner West Council	Inner West Council; Sportsground	634m2	-
Lot 1 DP 724792	Hammond Park, 34 Henry St	Inner West Council	Inner West Council; Sportsground	160m2	-
Unformed Road	-	Inner West Council		248m2	-

Existing Park Conditions



Site Boundary

0 10 20 30 50m
SCALE 1:1250 @ A4

	Use of land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Condition of the land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Future Condition (targeted following adoption of the PoM)
01	Timber entryway pergola	Fair	Good - upgrade + maintain
02	Historical plaque	Fair	Fair - maintain
03	Boundary fence along Henry Street	Fair	Good - replace + maintain
04	Low planting along Henry Street	Poor	Good - upgrade + maintain
05	Bollard fence along Frederick Street	Poor	Good - replace + maintain
06	Sports field	Very Poor	Good - upgrade + maintain
07	Park lighting	Very Poor	Good - replace + maintain
08	Flood lighting to sports field	Poor	Good - upgrade + maintain
09	Planting at south Lucy Street	Good	Good - maintain
10	Swing set	Good	Good - maintain
11	Playground	Good	Good - maintain
12	Playground shade structure + sails	Good	Good - maintain
13	Public toilets + sports amenities block	Very Poor	Good - replace + maintain
14	Netball hoop	Fair	Good - replace + maintain
15	Tennis court	Fair	Fair - maintain
16	Park furniture	Fair	Good - upgrade + maintain

Zoning + Classification

Inner West LEP : RE1 'Public recreation' + SP2 'Infrastructure'

Other Relevant Legislation:

- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- National Construction Code 2019
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007
- Work, Health and Safety Act 2011
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP

Land Categorisation Map

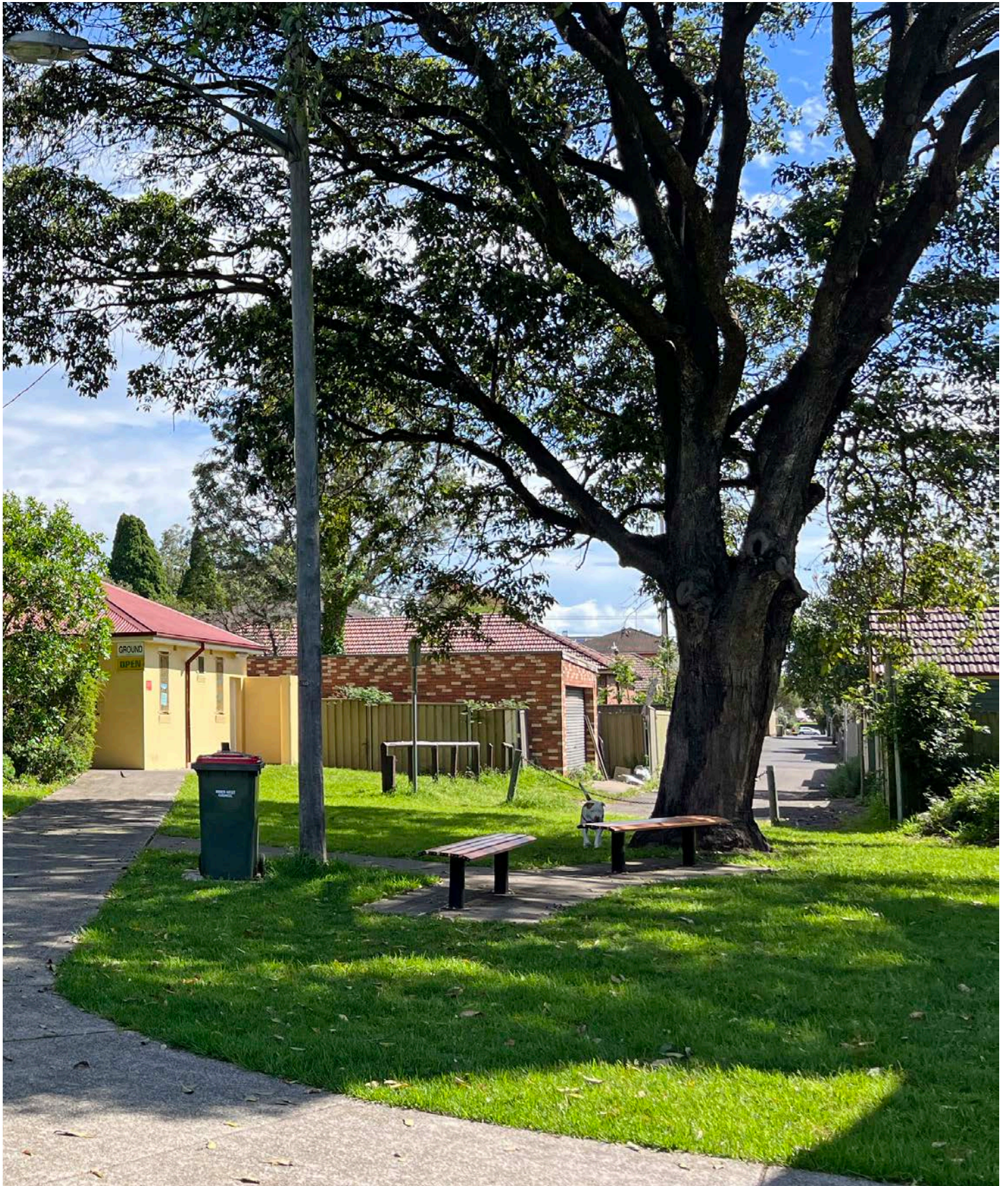


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3.0 Leases + Licences



View towards amenities + tennis court. Photography by Welsh + Major.



An Overview

The Local Government Act allows council to grant leases, licences or undertake works over all or part of Community Land.

Where exclusive control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed or desirable, a lease is appropriate. There are also other factors which may influence the granting of a lease. These include the level or scale of investment, the necessity for security measures and the relationship between the activity on the land and the activity of the controller of the land.

The activities undertaken by a leaseholder should be compatible with any zoning or Council requirements and provide benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interest of the Council, protect the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Where short term, intermittent or non-exclusive occupation or control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed, a licence may be used. Providing there are no conflicts of interest, several licences may apply concurrently.

In considering whether to grant any lease or licence, Council should take into account the consistency of the proposal with the values and management strategies of this Plan of Management, particularly with regard to the following:

The Lessee/Licensee is responsible for ensuring the area is maintained to a standard which is acceptable to Council.

There is a need to define the times the land or facility will be available for use by the Lessee/Licensee, the impact of the lease/licence on the public/private space use of the Parks, the impact on maintaining the Parks as one cohesive open space.

The Plan of Management for Hammond Park allows for the provision of leases and licences in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and any subsequent legislation. Future leases and licences will be authorised consistent with this Plan of Management, the Inner West Council Local Environment Plan (2022) and any other applicable legislation. Any licences for biodiversity works are permitted.

What are Leases and Licences?

A lease is a contract between the land owner, and another entity granting to that entity an exclusive right to occupy, use or control an area for a specified time.

A licence allows multiple non – exclusive use of an area. Short term licences and bookings may be used to allow the best overall use of an area.

Council's leasing and licensing is governed by its Land and Property Policy.

Authorisation of Leases and Licences

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires a lease or licence of community land be authorised by a Plan of Management (PoM). The lease or licence must be for a purpose consistent with core objectives of its categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government.

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council as land manager of Hammond Park to grant leases and licences for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and Table 1.02. The leases and licences authorised on this land align with original gazetted purpose of "Public Recreation".

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to be permissible under this PoM, the LG Act, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, the Inner West Council LEP 2022, and pursuant to a development consent if required.

Any proposed lease or licence for more than 5 years must be by tender unless it is to a non-profit organisation.

Any proposed lease, licence other than short term or casual public notice must be given and be in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

Current Leases and Licences

None currently in place.

Future Leases and Licences

This Plan of Management expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences of Hammond Park for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in the following tables

Sportsground, Court and Lighting times

Day	Sportsground Club Training Times	Tennis Court Usage times
Monday	Rest Day for field.	7am- 9.30pm
Tuesday	4.30pm- 9pm	7am- 9.30pm
Wednesday	4.30pm- 9pm	7am- 9.30pm
Thursday	4.30pm- 9pm	7am- 9.30pm
Friday	4.30pm- 9pm	7am- 9.30pm
Saturday	8am- 5pm	8am- 9.30pm
Sunday	9am- 5pm	8am- 9.30pm

Sportsground lights to be turned off no later than 9.15pm Tues - Fri.

No lights to sportsground Saturday to Monday inclusive.

Table 1.01

Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which licencing/ leasing will be granted
Licence: Sports Grounds	Organised sport including but not limited to soccer, rugby, cricket, oz tag
Licence: Sports Grounds	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence: General Community Use Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Licences Sporting club and associated uses including but not limited to kiosk and storage.
Licence: Park	School and community group recreation and education use

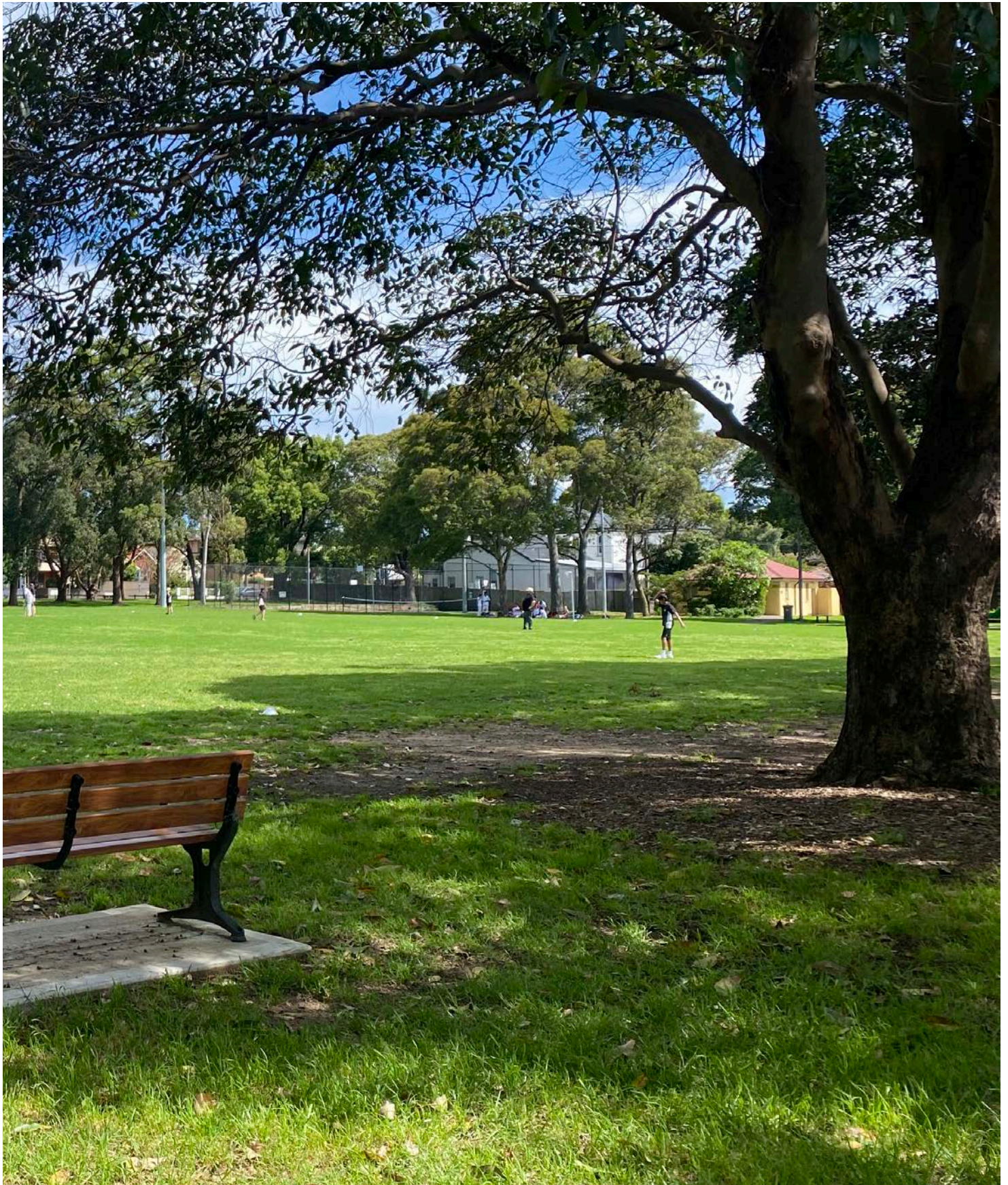
Table 1.02

Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which up to 12 month licence will be granted
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal licences: Sporting club and associated uses including but not limited to kiosk and storage Sporting fixtures and events Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events Use as per the sporting ground allocations policy; school use: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm; all ages training: Tuesday - Friday, 4.30pm - 9pm; all ages games: Saturday 8am - 5pm + Sunday, 9am - 5pm
Licence: Sports Ground	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence: Sports Ground	Commercial fitness trainers
Licence: Park	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence: Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering a public address Public performances Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings Conducting a commercial photography session Filming including film / television Community events and festivals Playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward Advertising Catering Community, training or education Environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies Exhibitions Functions Hiring of equipment Meetings Outdoor cinema Site investigations Sporting and organised recreational activities Storage Emergency purposes including training

4.0 Master Plan Strategies



View towards the sports ground and tennis court. Photography by Welsh + Major



Overview

The key objectives outline a broad vision for the future of Hammond Park. They have been derived from the opportunities and constraints outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes. They have also been informed through a precedent study of successful local, national and international parkland projects.

Key strategies offer practical measures for how these objectives can be implemented within Hammond Park.



ACCESS+INCLUSIVENESS

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.*
3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide a fully accessible 2.4m wide circular pathway with connection to streets
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities for tweens and teens
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.



SENSE OF PLACE+COMMUNITY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
3. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
4. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Retain the informal character and laid back vibe of the park as a community asset by grouping any built elements together in a 'hub', to avoid built elements from creeping into the rest of the park.
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.
- Establish additional shady seating areas.



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Hammond Park.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Optimise and consolidate storm-water strategy*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to park fringes.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Retain natural turf sport ground and rectify levels in the middle of sport field.



SAFETY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Implement strategies to reduce balls going over the road and protect young children from traffic.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Introduce physical barriers between park and road



SPORTS+RECREATION

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
3. *Maximise the use of the sports fields during night time and inclement weather.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Review current sporting ground allocations to ensure that community recreation needs are being met
- Upgrade the existing amenity block
- Level and improve drainage to the sports field. Implement new flood light management system for night time use.

PROPOSED METHODS OF PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The proposed methods of performance assessment for each of the strategies listed may be one, some or all of the following practical measures:

- Assessment of success through observation by Council staff generally
- The monitoring of use of implemented aspects of the masterplan by Council staff
- Implementation of visitor surveys
- Assessment of success through observation and feedback of maintenance staff
- Monitoring use of particular areas by park wardens and/ or CCTV
- For new lighting and buildings: Assessment of energy consumption rates and projected life cycle energy consumption
- Assessment through observation by Council ecologists
- Assessment through consultation with key user groups, licence and lease holders.



Access + Inclusiveness

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.*
3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide a fully accessible 2.4m wide circular pathway with connection to streets
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities for tweens and teens
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.

Pedestrian Connections

Whilst there are designated entry points from all four boundaries into the park, the existing path do not follow the most ergonomic route for the needs of the public. Two entry points at Henry St. have mulch paths and end once inside the park. There is no continuous accessible circuit around the park. This limits access for visitors with prams, wheelchairs and mobility requirements.

Upgrades are proposed to improve pedestrian amenity by establishing a circuit which allows these groups to access park facilities such as the tennis court, the new amenity block and the existing playground, while also providing a continuous exercise route. Before routes for these paths are finalized, the location and likely growth of surrounding tree routes should be considered, so that roots don’t undermine the path.

Enhanced lighting is proposed around the circuit for evening use. The concrete pathway surface is proposed to be retained and patched while still serviceable, and widened along narrow sections.

Activity Spaces

The current playground is in good condition and well used by the younger members of the community. However there is a demand to add new play areas that are more inclusive for all ages.

The Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and playspaces, catering for children, teenagers and adults. It incorporates a small scale ‘Learner’s Loop’ and obstacle course cycleway against the Lucy Street boundary. This edge has been identified as the least trafficked edge of the park and therefore the safest for learner cyclists to be in proximity to. It also proposes a basket and netball shooting practice area including goal circle hard stand to replace the existing freestanding netball hoop, and bench seats for spectators.

Amenities

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is in poor condition. The shower facilities are

currently used as storage rooms by the local sports club.

The Master Plan proposes to add a new amenities block to include fully accessible male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, a storage area for sports teams and community run kiosk.



Wider pathways encourage a variety of user groups
Sir James Mitchell Park, South Perth. Photo from City of South Perth website.



Example of cycleway obstacle course
Bicycle play track, Drapers Fields, England. Kinnear Landscape Architects, photo by Adrian Taylor.

Sense of Place + Community

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
3. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
4. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Retain the informal character and laid back vibe of the park as a community asset by grouping any built elements together in a 'hub', to avoid built elements from creeping into the rest of the park.
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.
- Establish additional shady seating areas.

A Unique Open Green Space

Hammond Park is the only open green space within walking distance to a number of residential communities nearby. While the character of the park is sport focused, trees around the perimeter create a sense of retreat and relaxation within the park. The open grassed areas are highly valued by the community for flexible recreation activities. These areas should be protected and maintained into the future.

The demand for additional and improved amenities necessitates the addition of built intervention within the park. This Master Plan identifies that the existing built intervention in the park is concentrated along the south west edge, directly perpendicular to the residential properties at 39 Lucy Street and 142 Fredrick Street. This Master plan recommends that any further built intervention sits within the footprint of the area highlighted (in adjacent image), to prevent built structures 'creeping' into the park land.

Park furniture and facilities

New furniture and facilities are recommended to support passive enjoyment of the park. These are indicated to a number of areas including:

- Benches and picnic tables in the new forecourt in front of the amenities block and around sports ground sidelines. These provide an informal place for people to rest and meet and to supervise children in the playground.
- Basket + netball shooting practice area near the tennis court, taking advantage of the existing flat unused space.
- New amenities block to include male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, storage area for sports teams and community run kiosk
- Bins and water fountains near entrances and along key routes. These should be designed for convenience, and to enhance visitors enjoyment of the park.



Recommended location for built area interventions



Sustainability

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Hammond Park.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Optimise and consolidate storm-water strategy*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to park fringes.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Retain natural turf sport ground and rectify levels in the middle of sport field.

Trees and Understorey Planting

Multiple species of large trees flank the edges of the park along the boundary roads. A great majority of these trees are in good condition and their location offers an informal shaded path around the full perimeter of the park.

It is proposed to undertake a condition assessment of the existing trees for potential renewal, as two of them have reached the end of their lifespan. This will ensure consistent continuous canopy cover along the additional hard landscaping created by new paths within the park.

The Master Plan proposes to introduce new understory planting along Frederick St to create a green fringe between the new paths and the road. It is also recommended to maintain the existing hedge screen along Henry street and increase its density and width by adding new understorey planting where mulch currently covers the ground.

Understorey planting is recommended for areas which are less utilised, to improve the range of habitats available for local fauna and to encourage greater biodiversity. It will also increase safety by acting as a low physical barrier between the sports ground and the roads, deterring players from running out after lost balls during games.

Natural Ground Cover

The physical footprint occupied by Hammond Park is not very large, therefore the sport ground provides a substantial proportion of the soft landscape. Though natural turf sport grounds have restrictions when it comes to weather conditions (i.e. restrict play when heavy rain has fallen), the natural turf ground can be used by a greater proportion of visitors than a synthetic ground, catering for a more diverse uses and providing greater benefit in terms of connecting to nature.

Additionally, the natural turf provides a positive contribution to the biodiversity of this predominantly urban area, and could help to reduce the urban heat island effect and deal more effectively

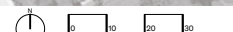
with stormwater run-off which are both positive factors in the context of the Sydney climate. It is reported that synthetic turf can 'increase land surface temperatures by 40% or more, absorbing heat, warming air temperatures, hardening soil and thus increasing stormwater runoff'.

Though each option presents valid opportunities and constraints, in light of the scale of Hammond Park and the range of users it caters for outside of organized sports, this Master Plan recommends that the sports ground should be retained as natural turf.

Reference: 'Synthetic Turf Study in Public Open Space' Report prepared for the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.



Proposed understory planting fringe





Example of use of understory planting as physical barrier - High Line, New York



Parkland 'pocket' and shaded path created with native grasses on Gadigal Land, City of Sydney
Sue Barnsley Landscape Architects. Image Brett Boardman



Example of use of understory planting as physical barrier - High Line, New York

Safety

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Implement strategies to reduce balls going over the road and protect young children from traffic.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Reducing traffic speed near Frederick St.
- Introduce physical barriers between park and road

Lighting

There was support for lighting upgrades to improve safety and to extend the hours that the park can be used. The Master Plan proposes an new low level consistent lighting along the new perimeter path for increased safety of visitors after dark.

Consideration should be given that this area is a biodiverse environment and lighting should be directed so as not to limit the effect of light pollution on sensitive nocturnal habitats.

Reducing traffic speed around public parks

A number of park users requested additional crossing points over Frederick St. There already exists a number of pedestrian crossing points over Frederick St and a pedestrian 'zebra' crossing near the intersection of Frederick and Church St. These crossings are within 200m of each other so the use of another crossing would not be necessarily suitable.

Traffic calming measures along Frederick St could greatly improve the safety of the park users as well as improving connectivity between the park and its immediate neighbourhood.

Implementing speed humps or road narrowing with planted chicanes as well as additional appropriate signage are all measures that could be considered to achieve this objective.

Fencing

The demand for additional fencing along Frederick and Lucy St was highlighted by repetitive comments of concern. Separation between the sports ground and the roads is desirable to increase the safety of junior sports players and dogs, as well as to reduce traffic disruptions caused by balls on the road.

Understory planting and new low level fencing along Frederick St are proposed to address this concern.



Examples of low level fencing



Examples of low level path lighting

Sports + Recreation

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

- 1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
- 2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
- 3. *Maximise the use of the sports fields during night time and inclement weather.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use.
- Upgrade the existing amenity block
- Level and improve drainage to the sports field. Implement new flood light management system for night time use.

Recreational use

The community consultation observed that the tennis court is frequently used and was encouraged to be maintained and kept free of charge. Some comments have also been made about the unused flat areas adjacent to the court that could be used for recreational activities in order to activate these neglected spaces.

The playground area is in good condition but it has been mentioned that it could be more inclusive of all ages.

As mentioned previously, the Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and playspaces, catering for children, teenagers and adults, with a small scale 'Learner's Loop' and a basket and netball shooting practice area including goal circle hard stand to replace the existing freestanding netball hoop.

Organised sports

Organised sports at Hammond Park are a key aspect of the park's history. Contributions from participants who use the sports ground for organised sports generally raised issues that the games were often cancelled due to inclement weather and poor drainage.

The function of the existing sports field is also impaired by its uneven surface, mounding up towards the centre.

The Master Plan proposes to resurface and level the sports ground with natural turf and adequate drainage underlay. Council may consider using hybrid turf patching in high wear areas such as goal mouths. Hybrid turf contains blades of synthetic grass with natural grass and increase durability of fields whilst reducing the use of synthetic materials.

The existing cricket pitch is to be replaced by 'roll out' cricket pitches.

Lighting

Whilst the existing lighting to the sporting ground itself is generally appropriate for use, lighting to the 'sideline' areas of

the ground should be added to allow safe and amenable light levels to these areas and allow the field to rest when not used for organised games.

An upgrade to the existing floodlights is also proposed, with activation by text message, to allow the use of the sports ground after dark.

Capacity of amenities

The Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes both identified that the existing amenities which cater for the site are run down and in need of refurbishment. The shower area is currently used for storage.

The Master Plan proposes replacing the existing amenity block by a new one with increased capacity and largely open on a forecourt that will be connected to the existing pathways. It will contain a new kiosk and a large equipment store to be used by the local sports clubs.

Planting is introduced at the back of the block to restrict access as well as in the forecourt to create a parkland 'pocket' with shaded tables and benches.

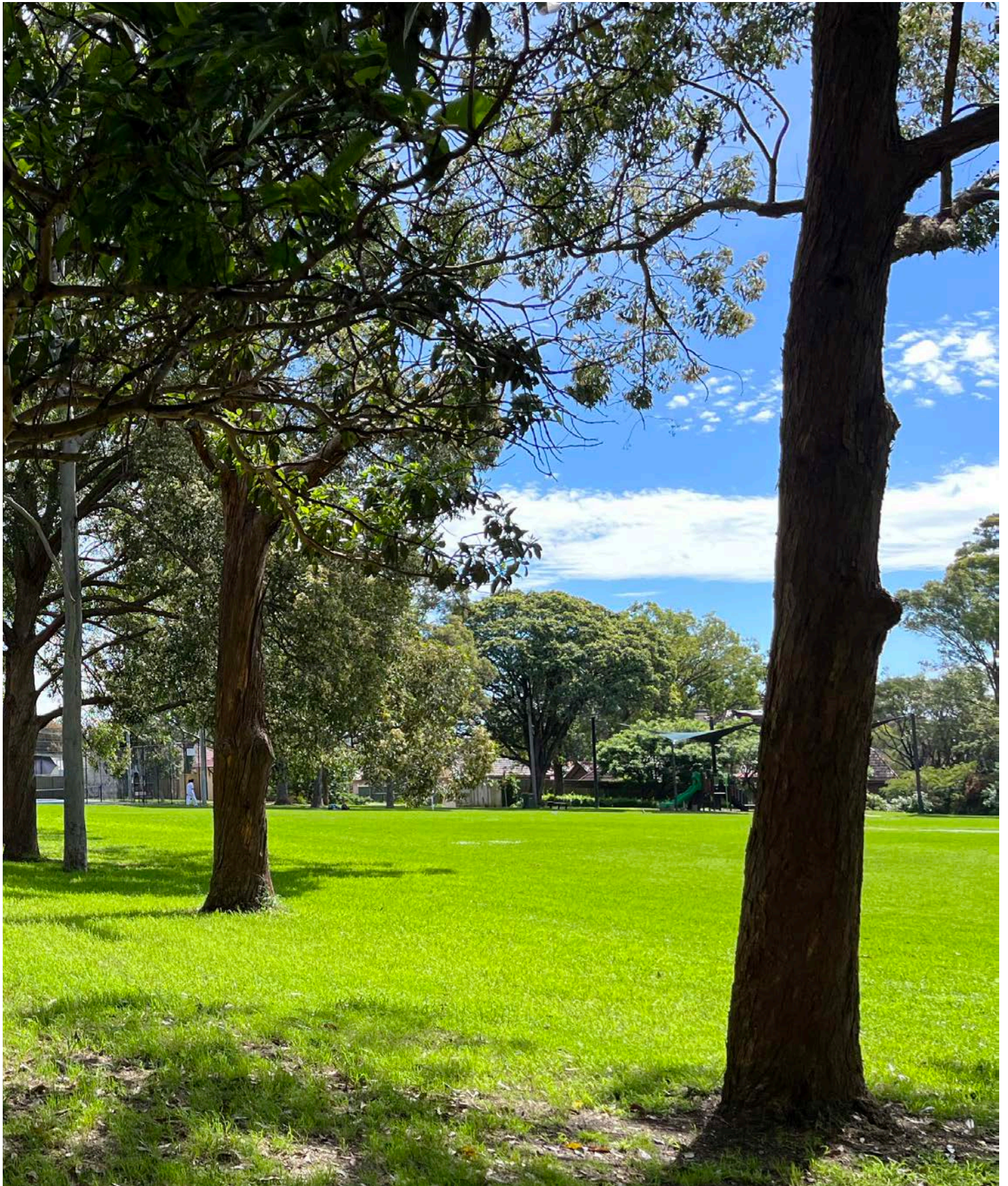


Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major Architects

5.0 Draft Master Plan



Existing trees at Hammond Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



Draft Master Plan
Hammond Park, Ashfield



Draft Master Plan

Hammond Park, Ashfield





Existing Plan

- ① Natural turf floodlit sportsground
- ② Synthetic turf cricket pitch
- ③ Uneven mulch and bark surface
- ④ Metal mesh fence
- ⑤ Existing picnic tables and benches
- ⑥ Timber entry structure
- ⑦ Decorative landscape beds
- ⑧ Lamp post lighting
- ⑨ Footpath across park
- ⑩ Tennis court with text message activated lighting
- ⑪ Netball hoop
- ⑫ Rendered brick amenities block
- ⑬ Service access road
- ⑭ Play park
- ⑮ Dense planting to adjacent property



Uneven mulch + bark surface, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Rendered brick amenities block, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Netball hoop, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Proposed Plan

01 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths

02 Low level consistent path lighting around circuit track

03 Dead trees removed and replaced

04 Existing understorey planting along Henry Street maintained, additional native planting introduced to Henry and Frederick street edges

05 Mulch corner at intersection of Lucy + Henry Streets replaced with native planting, with fence extended to deter illegal dumping

06 Existing paths from Henry Street into Hammond Park paved and graded to be fully accessible

07 New ball fence along Frederick Street and Henry Street, set back from existing trees at park boundary

08 Forecourt and park 'hub'

With consolidated signage and pocket parkland with benches and picnic tables

09 Condition of existing tennis court monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

10 Upgraded amenities block

Upgrade and expand existing amenities to include toilets changing rooms and storage areas for sporting teams that are accessible and inclusive

11 A new (community run) kiosk building

12 Condition of existing play area monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

13 Sports ground upgraded

Natural turf sports ground graded, adequate drainage underlay installed and consistent maintenance programme implemented

14 Replace current cricket pitch in its current location with either a new "synthetic" or "roll out" pitch.

15 Hybrid turf trialled in high wear areas (eg goal mouths)

16 Condition of existing flood lighting to sports ground monitored, maintained and upgraded as required. Enable text message activation system as per tennis court lighting

17 Bike Track

Bike track for learner riders incorporates creative surface treatment and local history interpretation

18 New tables and benches around sports ground sidelines

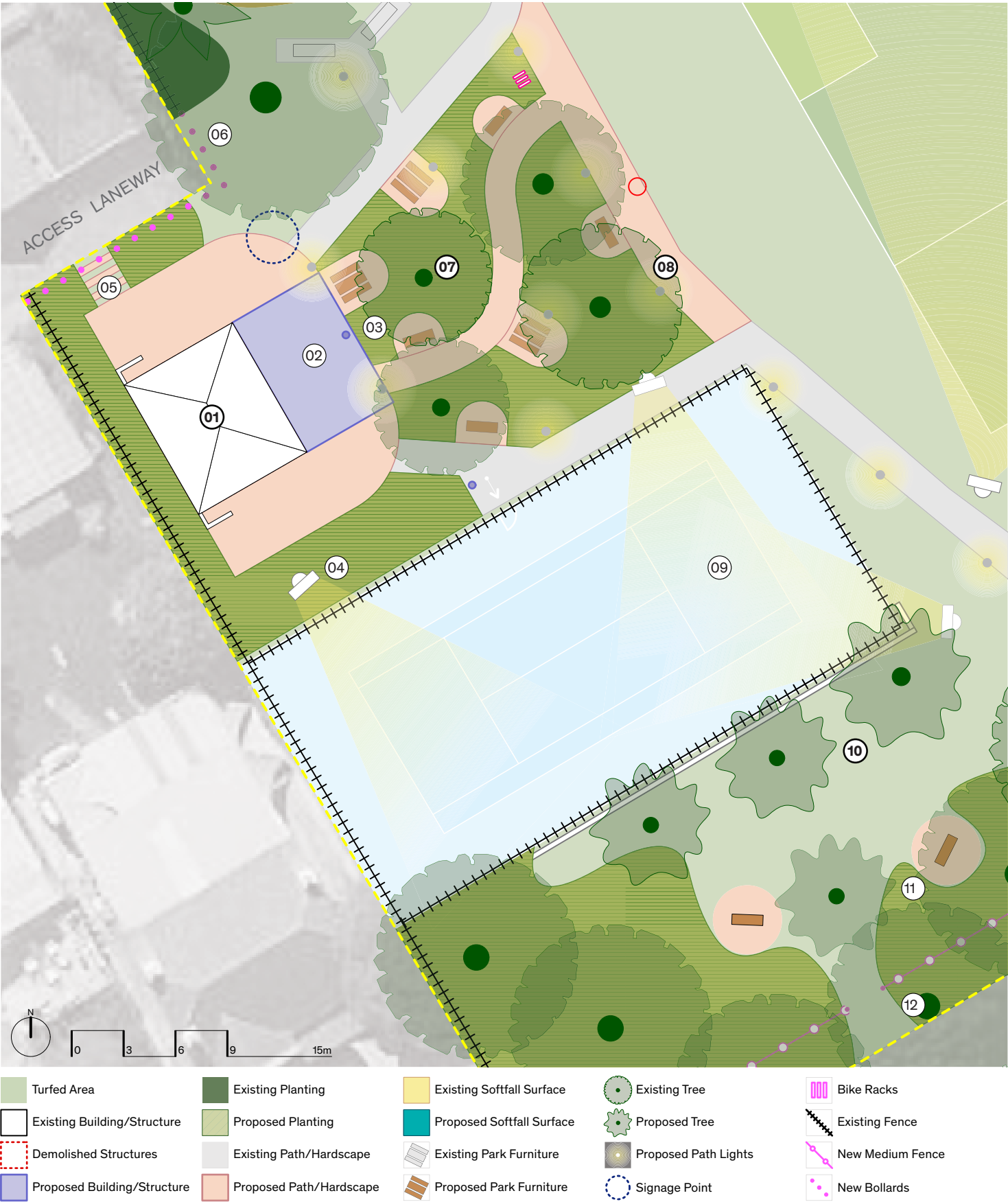
19 Entrance arbour used for interpretation signage, including park map, instructional and historical information about



Native understorey planting at Prince Alfred Park on Gadigal Land, City of Sydney
Sue Barnsley Landscape Architects



Example of low level path lighting



Precinct A

01 Upgraded amenities block

Upgrade and expand existing amenities to include toilets, changing rooms and storage areas for sporting teams that are accessible and inclusive

02 New (community run) kiosk adjacent to upgraded amenities.

03 Forecourt and park 'hub'

Create forecourt in front of amenities block, include water fountains, bins and consolidated signage point. Connect forecourt to existing pathways

04 Introduce planting to sides and rear of amenities block to restrict pedestrian access and enhance aesthetic of amenities

05 Loading area for equipment store and kiosk

06 Replace worn out service access barriers and old fences with fixed and fold down bollards

07 Pocket parkland

Introduce native planting and benches tucked around existing trees to create a parkland 'pocket' close to amenities for spectators, kiosk users and other park visitors

08 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths

09 Condition of existing tennis court monitored and maintained; surface finish, fencing and lighting upgraded as and when required

10 Basketball half court

Replace single netball hoop (shown red) with basketball half court and reversible basket/ netball hoop. Existing tennis court fence doubles as ball fence backdrop for basket/ netball

11 Benches for spectators to half court tucked into new native planting, in underused corner of the park

12 New mid height fence along Frederick Street boundary, with informal unpaved entry point near half court



Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major Architects



Citizen Garden, Monterrey Mexico
Práctica Arquitectura



Reversible basket + netball hoops at Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield
Inner West Council



Turfed Area	Existing Planting	Existing Softfall Surface	Existing Tree	Bike Racks
Existing Building/Structure	Proposed Planting	Proposed Softfall Surface	Proposed Tree	Existing Fence
Demolished Structures	Existing Path/Hardscape	Existing Park Furniture	Proposed Path Lights	New Medium Fence
Proposed Building/Structure	Proposed Path/Hardscape	Proposed Park Furniture	Signage Point	New Bollards

Precinct B

01 Bike Track

Bike track in a brightly coloured soft fall surface provides an activity for children older than play park age. Track is set out around existing trees and connects to the new circuit path. Incorporate creative features into bike track, such as textured surfaces, colours, gradients

02 Interpretation signage around bike track to highlight the cycling history of Hammond Park, which hosted the first women's cycling race in Australia. Signage incorporated in-ground at crossing point, or with a creative 3d installation alongside the track

03 Use contrasting surface treatment where bike track and circuit path intersect to emphasise intersections, increasing user safety

04 Low level, informal fencing where bike track turns towards Lucy Street

05 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths. Path set out between existing trees to provide a pleasant shaded route

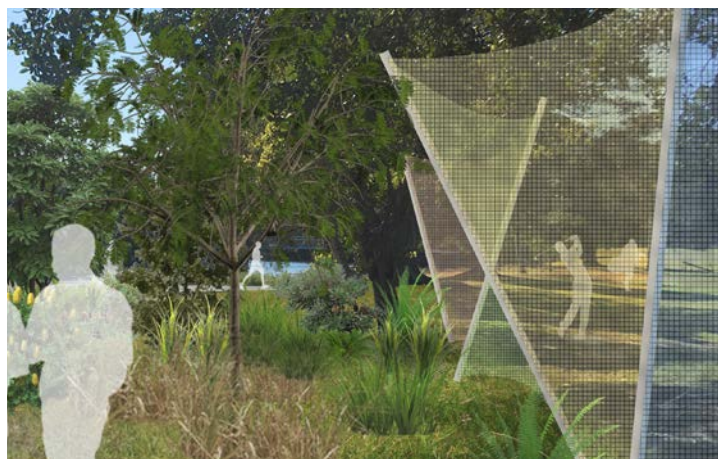
06 New picnic benches and tables around edges of sports ground. Where possible, fix park furniture to permeable surface instead of concrete to limit hardscape added to park

07 Sports ground upgraded

Natural turf sports ground upgraded with adequate drainage underlay and consistent maintenance programme



Wave form features at Draper's Field bike track, Waltham Forest, London UK
Kinnear Landscape Architects



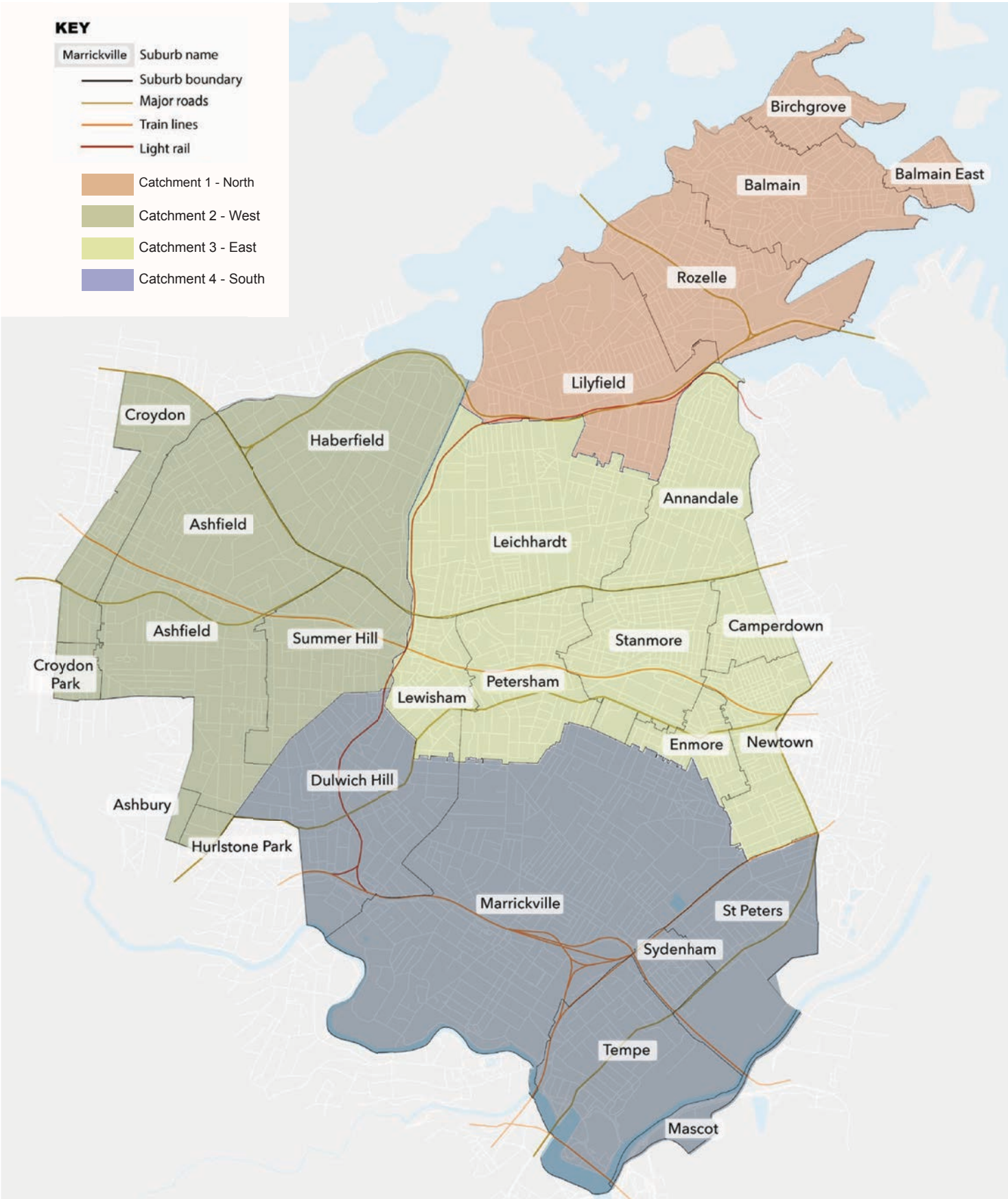
A playful and gentler alternative to a typical fence
Welsh + Major



Soft fall path in distinctive finish at Bogaardplein Rijswijk Park, Netherlands
Delva Landscape Architects



Hammond Park, looking south east from Lucy Street. Photography by Welsh + Major.



Inner West Council area and suburbs. Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

Demographics

Overview

This section outlines the current community profile of Ashfield using data from the 2021 ABS Census from Profile i.d. as well as future projections outlined in Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, Updated 2021 (Cred Consulting). This study breaks down the Inner West area into 4 catchment areas. Ashfield falls into catchment 2.

Catchment 2's population is characterised by a higher proportion of people aged 18 to 34 years old and seniors and elderly people. This catchment area has a considerable number of residents who were born overseas and speak a language other than English at home.

Population growth

In 2021, the estimated resident population of the Inner West was 183 772 people. The population decreased by 7422 people or 3.8% between 2016 and 2021. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 7.8%.

Census data for Ashfield has been separated into Ashfield North and Ashfield South, due to the size of the area and different urban conditions to the north and south of the train line.

Hammond Park is located in Ashfield North, approximately 1km north of the neighbouring Ashfield Park. Ashfield North experienced a decline in population, with its population decreasing by 1625 people (12.4%) between 2016 and 2021.

Despite this short term dip, Inner West Council estimates significant population growth by 2036.

Open space provision

The Inner West has an estimated 321.6 hectares of open space which equates to 9.1% of the total land area.

In 2016 the provision of open space per person was 16.4m². To further analyse this data, the LGA was broken down into 4 catchment areas. Ashfield falls into catchment 2, which in 2016 had a provision of open space per person of 10.1m² and an estimated 8.7m² by 2036.

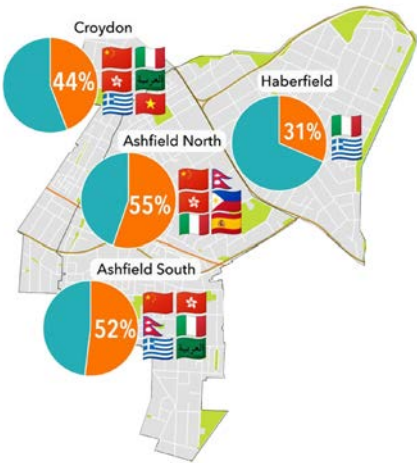


O1 Ashfield - Age + disability profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

KEY

Icons show suburbs with a proportion above the LGA average or high number of:

- Babies and children (0 - 12yrs) (over 12.9% or over 1,000 people)
- Young people (12 - 24yrs) (over 13.1% or over 1,000 people)
- Older people (65yrs +) (over 12.2% or over 1,000 people)
- People with disability (over 4.5% or over 500 people)



O2 Ashfield - Cultural profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

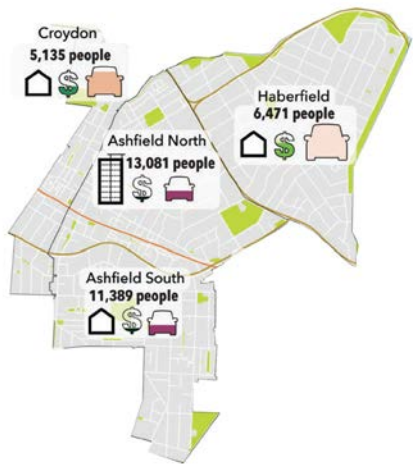
KEY

- % speaking English at home
- % speaking a language other than English at home
- >1.5 % Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Languages spoken by more than 2% of the population:

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Greek
- Italian
- Macedonian
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

*In Leichhardt, while the proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home is relatively low, the number of speakers is very high: >2,000



O3 Ashfield - Density, income + housing profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

KEY

Median weekly household income:

- \$1,500 - \$1,749
- \$1,750 - \$1,999
- \$2,000 - \$2,499
- \$2,500 - \$2,999
- > \$3,000

% of households with cars:

- Under 75%
- 75% - 80%
- 80% - 85%
- 85% - 90%
- Over 90%

Dominant dwelling type:

- Low density
- Medium density
- High density

Demographics

Age + disability profile

Spaces that are inclusive of all age groups, accessible and flexible should be prioritised to cater for current and future population needs.

Ashfield has an above average proportion of babies and children (0-12yrs), young people (12-24yrs) older people (65+yrs), and people reporting a need for assistance.

Ashfield also has the lowest median age within the LGA of 30 years old.

Ashfield North has the second highest proportion of people attending university (10.7%), and Ashfield South has the highest proportion of people attending TAFE (2.5%).

Neighbouring suburb Haberfield has one of the highest median ages (43).

Cultural Profile

Ashfield, and its neighbouring suburbs are culturally diverse. Ashfield North has the highest proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, identified as 55% of the population, and 52% of the population in Ashfield South. The primary languages identified included Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese.

In neighbouring suburbs, 44% of the Croydon population also identify as speaking a non-English language at home, speaking primarily Greek, Arabic, Italian, Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Likewise, a third of Haberfield residents identify their primary languages as Italian and Greek.

Density, income + housing profile

Ashfield has a mix of density types, with Ashfield South (south of the train line) typically exhibiting lower density housing. Ashfield North is predominantly high density dwellings at 59%, and a high population density (83 persons per hectare).

Households within Ashfield have below average weekly incomes, with Ashfield South having the lowest median weekly income within the LGA at \$1,585.

There is also a high proportion of low income households (17% in Ashfield South and 15% in Ashfield North) that receive less than \$650 per week.

Ashfield was identified as having a large number of households without a car (21%). This identifies the need for alternative forms of transport with a focus on a walk able urban domain.

Ashfield town centre was identified as a key employment destination within the LGA.

Neighbouring suburb Haberfield is identified as having one of the lowest densities within the LGA, with 27 persons per hectare. The suburb also has a relatively higher median weekly income of \$2000-2499, and a high proportion of households with cars (90%).



Aboriginal Links to Hammond Park

Aboriginal Connection to Country

Statement about Aboriginal ideology in terms of their relationship to Country and the planning/design factors to be considered when using/adapting this ideology.

First Nations History in Ashfield

Prior to European colonisation, the Ashfield area was inhabited by the Wangal band of the Dharug (Eora) language group. The territory of the Wangal peoples extends along the southern shore of the Parramatta River to Parramatta. There is limited knowledge available regarding First Nations history of the site due to the devastating and immediate impact of European colonisation.

The area would have offered numerous food sources, from the fish and molluscs within the mangrove estuaries of Iron Cove, to the natural Eucalyptus woodlands which would have provided habitat for fauna such as possums and plants such as fern rhizomes and tubers. In the years following first contact, these lands were known as Kangaroo Ground, possibly indicating that kangaroos were common in the area. These open woodlands were on shale soil and waters by numerous creeks feeding the Parramatta and Cooks rivers.¹



History of the Park

First Nations History in Ashfield

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Post European History of the Hammond Park Site

1865-1911

The Hammond Park site comes into focus alongside the formation of the Ashfield Cricket Club over the summer of 1865-66. Matches held, “at Ashfield”, as printed in the Sydney Morning Herald, are said to have been hosted on the site, with many players local residents of the area. At this time, the site was known as Potter’s Paddock, owned local butcher Henry Potter.

In 1875, first reference of the plot as ‘Ashfield’s Cricket Club’s Ground’ was recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald. That same year, the site was leased from Henry Potter by John Hay Goodlet and George Crane. Taken out for a five year period at 13 pounds per year, the lease stated that it was “lawful to make a Cricket Ground, cut down and fall any trees or timber, erect any fence or buildings needed” for the club.

In 1883 Higinbotham and Robinson designated the site “The Ashfield Cricket Club’s Ground” on the Map of the Municipality of Ashfield prepared for council.

The club purchased the land from Potter in 1884 for 300 pounds, upon the expiration of their second lease. Following the purchase of the land, the Ashfield Recreation Grounds Company was formed, a private enterprise of local residents. The title of the Cricket Ground was quickly secured by the company. Soon after, the company expended with the purchase of neighbouring land, including an additional lot from Harriet Potter, wife of Henry Potter.



1883 Map of the Municipality of Ashfield prepared for council. Site labelled as "Ashfield C. Clubs Ground".

at Ashfield Recreation Ground

SCORECARD

ENGLAND V 18 of SYDNEY JUNIORS

at Sydney, March, 5.6.7. 1885.

ENGLAND

A.Shrewsbury	b Spurway	7
W.H.Scotton	b Dunbar	6
G.Ulyett	b Ferris	5
W.Barnes	b Spurway	25
W.Bates	c Robinson b Adams	6
W.Flowers	c Gray b Sullivan	42
J.M.Read	not out	52
W.Attewell	b Sullivan	10
R.Peel	b Ferris	13
J.Hunter	c-b Ferris	0
J.Lillywhite	b Ferris	6
Sundries	bl3. lb2. nbl.	16
Totals		188

Spurway 2
Dunbar 1
Ferris 4
Adams 1
Sullivan 2

18 of SYDNEY JUNIORS

J.Searle	b Peel	6	not out	2
F.Zuland	b Attewell	1	not out	16
H.H.Donnan	b Peel	5	c-b Read	24
-.Clifford	b Peel	4	b Attewell	0
-.Brown	c Shrewsbury b Peel	4	c-b Peel	2
-.Whiting	b Attewell	0	c-b Attewell	8
-.Baker	b Attewell	0		
-.Robinson	b Peel	0	b Read	0
G.Adams	b Peel	0	b Ulyett	16
-.Dennis	b Attewell	1	c Hunter b Bates	6
E.S.Ironside	b Attewell	4	c Peel b Flowers	0
E.Tindall	c Read b Peel	26	b Peel	36
J.Spurway	b Peel	24	b Ulyett	38
-.Gray	b Peel	4		
R.Hargreaves	b Peel	0	b Flowers	19
J.J.Ferris	c Hunter b Peel	10		
-.Cottam	not out	5	b Bates	0
-.Sullivan	c Barnes b Attewell	2		
Sundries		4	b9. lb7. vl.	17
Totals		100	12 for	184

Peel	56	24	51	11	28	13	36	2
Attewell	56	29	45	6	50	31	25	2
Flowers	-	-	-	-	25	13	39	2
Bates	-	-	-	-	24	10	25	2
Ulyett	-	-	-	-	16	4	32	2
Read	-	-	-	-	6	2	10	2

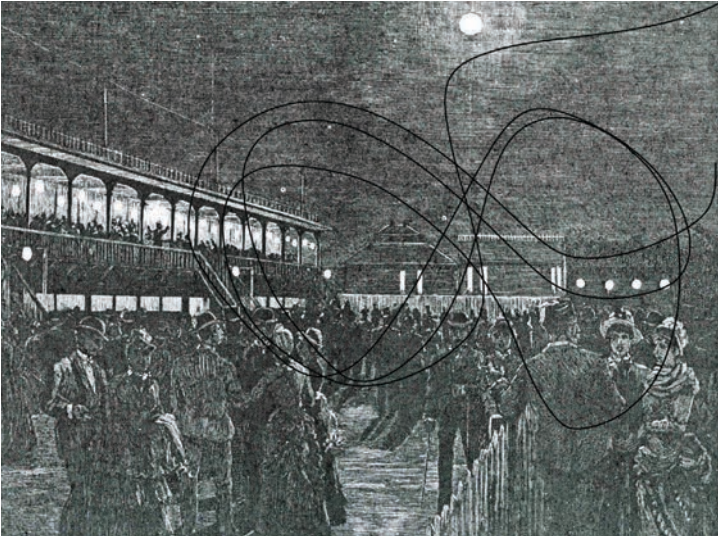
MATCH DRAWN

New South Wales Cricket Association Archives

England Team vs. Sydney Juniors, 1885, match played on Ashfield Recreational Ground.



Shaw's team of Crickets. Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW



Moonlight concrete at Ashfield Recreation Grounds. Showing 1000 person grandstand. Illustrated Sydney News, 1886

The company operated for several years following, hosting a range of activities beyond cricket. By 1886 a covered grandstand with capacity to hold 1000 people had been erected on site. Alongside this was a pavilion built to host a range of clubs and activities. Later, an ice skating rink, known as the "Winter Palace" was built and became a popular public venue. Over this period the grounds were used for cycling, bowling, lawn tennis, skittles and quoits.

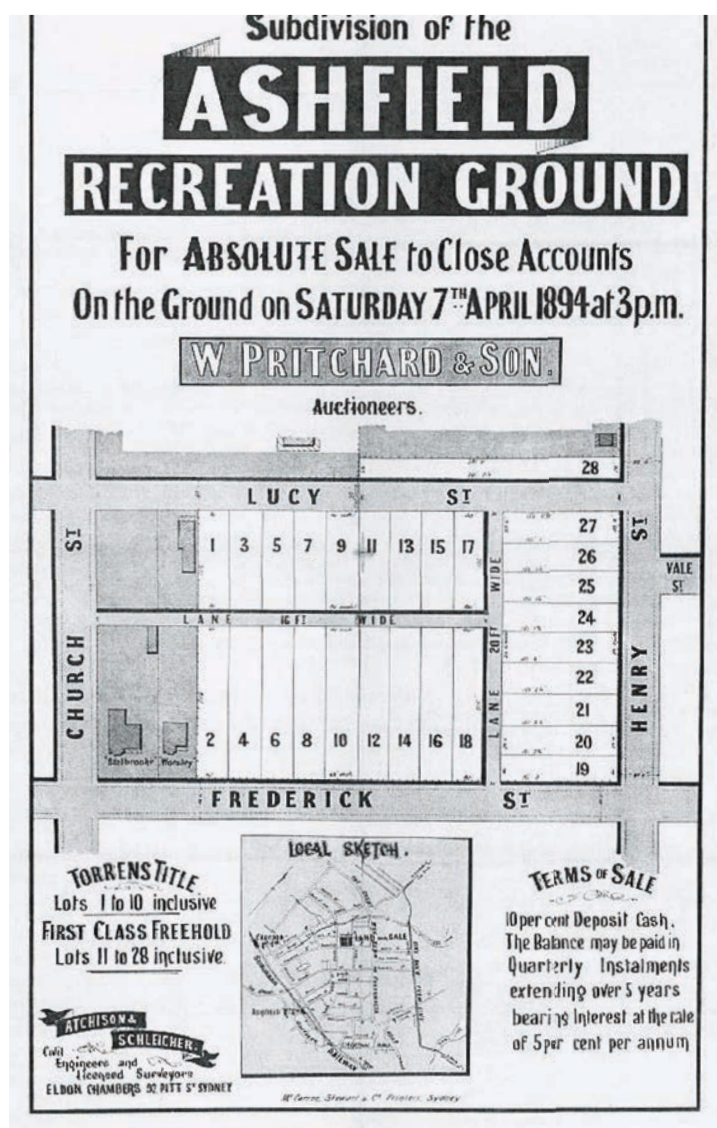
Although business seemed well, In 1887, the company went into liquidation and the Ashfield Recreation Grounds were sold to John William Cliff for 600 pounds, inclusive of an 1884 mortgage of 3,500 pounds to be taken over by the purchaser. The recreation grounds continued to operate after the sale, despite ongoing financial issues. In January of 1888, Cliff took out another loan with the Mercantile Bank.

In 1888, Australia's first ladies bicycle races were held on site.

On 8 December of that year, 4000 people gathered on site to witness watchmaker, J. T. Williams, make the first planned parachute decent from balloon. "The enthusiasm among those who had witnessed him leave the ground, many of whom were all too fearful he would never return alive, knew no bounds as the parachute, spread out in mid-air like a huge umbrella, could be seen making its way back." (S.M.H. 10.12.1888).

As a result the looming 1890's depression, the Ashfield Recreation Grounds were signed to the Mercantile Bank in 1891.

The land was divided in the 1894 subdivision plan by Atchison & Schleicher. Upon its failure to sell, the land was purchased by Ashfield Council in 1910. In 1911 the park was renamed to Hammond Park in honour of former Mayor and MP, Mark J. Hammond.



1894 Subdivision Plan following the collapse of the Ashfield Recreation Grounds Company and the Banks acquisition of the site.



The old Ashfield Recreation Ground Grandstand re-erected at Bathurst Showground in 1982. The occasion is probably the official opening of the show on Thursday, April 7th by the Governor, Victor Albert George Child Villiers. (Image: Bathurst District Historical Society)



Neighbourhood Context

Local Character

Hammond park is located in the suburb of Ashfield North, close to the boundaries of neighbouring suburbs Croydon, Haberfield and Five Dock. The park lies similar distance from the main high streets of Ashfield, Croydon, Haberfield and Five Dock. The park is approximately 18 minutes walk (1.4km) north of Ashfield train station.

Currently there is no clear link between Ashfield centre and Hammond Park. A physical distance and a general lack of signage both contribute to this separation.

As a result, the park primarily serves the immediate residential community which surrounds it. Dwellings along Henry, Frederick, Lucy and Church Street, vary in size and character. The park is the only open green space within walking distance to a number of residential communities nearby.

While the immediate context is defined by quiet residential streets, the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Area suggests a shift in pace and development to the north of the site.

Major Roads

Parramatta Road (Great Western Highway) runs five minutes walk north east of the park, which is a major thoroughfare. To the east of the park, the City West Link Road, Parramatta Road and the M4 Tunnel meet at what is known as the Parramatta Road Interchange.

Public Transport

The site is not serviced by train or light rail. Ashfield and Croydon train stations are approximately 18 minutes walk south and south-west.

Bus services following Frederick Street and Parramatta Road have stops within a five minute walking distance to the site.

These include:

- Bus Route 491, with stops from Hurstville to Five Dock
- Bus Route 461N, with stops from Burwood to Hyde Park
- Bus Route 461X, with stops from Burwood to City Domain

Cycle Routes

The local area is generally lacking a designated cycle network. Presently, none of the roads surrounding the site are identified as bike friendly roads. The report 'GOING PLACES - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Inner West' does identify Frederick Street and Parramatta Road as 'missing routes' in the Future Planning Network.

Local Parklands

Centenary Park, in Croydon is an 8 minute walk (700m) west of Hammond Park. The Wadim (Bill) Jegorow Reserve which follows the Iron Cove Creek is approximately 10 minutes walk to the north-west of the site.

Hammond Park has no link to the Iron Cove Creek just 200m north. Church Street and other streets which link the park and Iron Cove Creek, have little room for expansion of fauna beyond the existing trees. The narrow green spaces along the creek are undeveloped and lie within a flood zone.



01. Sports field / 02. Entryway pergola at corner of Frederick + Henry St / 03. Shaded tree flank along Frederick St / 04. Frederick St entry / 05. Tennis court / 06. Utility area incl. tank + pump station / 07. Amenities block / 08. Netball hoop / 09. Shaded playground + swings / 10. Native garden at Lucy St entrance / 11. Shaded sitting area along Lucy St / 12. Henry St entrance + planted area

Existing Conditions

Character

While the character of the park is sports focused, flanks of established trees around the perimeter create a sheltered condition for a range of leisure activities. These trees screen the neighbouring dwellings to harbour a sense of retreat and relaxation within the park.

The arrangement of existing structures serve the community well, defining particular areas for different users. The amenities, playground and tennis courts lie to the south, placed conveniently for self directed sports and family oriented activities. While the north end of the site remains quiet and undisrupted for the picnic goer or avid reader. As such, the park is much loved by the local community which it serves.

Activity

The park is well used by the community for a number of activities. The sporting ground itself is utilised for both sporting events and informal sports, as well as joggers running around the perimeter of the field. The field is used for both summer and winter sports. The tennis courts are well used by the community who enjoy the self directed operating system. The grassy areas are also popular for unstructured recreation, with people relaxing, meeting for picnics and gatherings or dog walking. The playground equipment is well used by younger members of the community and families.

Furniture

The park does not have a specific picnic area defined by furniture. Instead, a combination of fixed benches and picnic tables are scattered among the playground area and along the perimeter of the sports field. There are three timber benches along Lucy street which face the field. These are fixed to concrete pads and are in good condition.

There are two picnic table arrangements to the end of the field along Henry St, which are also in good condition. These are uncovered, but do receive shade from trees overhead. The boundary along Frederick St has no seating. Three benches are placed to face the playground and one adjacent to the entry of the tennis courts. A bubbler with a dog bowl, in good condition, is also located alongside the tennis courts.

There are two red wheelie bin locations, one at each end of the park. No fixed bins or recycling bins were observed.

Lighting

There are 4 tall floodlights associated with the sporting grounds which appear to be in good condition. A further three flood lights service the tennis court which operate from 5-9:30pm on a text message system.

There are 8 dilapidated telegraph poles with street light attachments which sit among the trees along Frederick + Lucy St. These lights have overhead power lines which connect to the mains beyond the park boundary. Two similar lights are located alongside the playground and amenities area. These lights are in poor condition.

Signage & Wayfinding

Overall, signage in the park is outdated and at times unclear. The park sign along Frederick St and overhead sign on the pergola are out-of-date and bare the branding of Ashfield Council.

Hammond Park has clear and current dog on-leash signage. The park is an on-leash park at all times. Two types of signs indicate dog rules to users, a red sign which prohibits dogs within 10m of playground areas, and a green sign which dictates the parks on-leash rules. These bare the new Inner West Council branding.

Scattered throughout the park are bollard style signs which prohibit smoking within 10m of a playground or sports ground. These signs are in average condition and bare no branding or consistent style to other signs in the park.

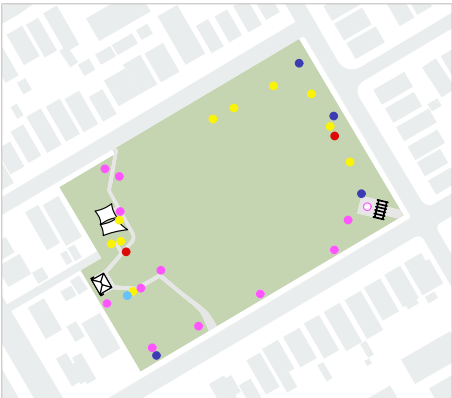
At the southern corner of the park is an old sign, referencing the Municipality of Ashfield, which lists prohibited items in the park. This sign is poorly positioned and out-of-date. The information on this sign would be better communicated to park users in a consistent format.

Tree Cover + Planting

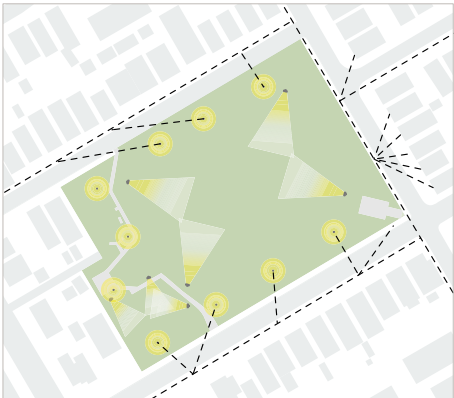
Multiple species of large trees flank the edges of the park along the bounding roads. These trees are predominantly Brush Box, but also include other Eucalyptus varieties. Two established Plain trees frame the entryway at the corner of Frederick and Henry St. The size and density of these trees create a strip of shaded area approximately 20 metres wide which spans the full perimeter of the park. There are a number of dead trees amongst this existing tree flank. Three younger saplings amongst the large established trees along Frederick St have been planted to replace some of the lost tree cover.



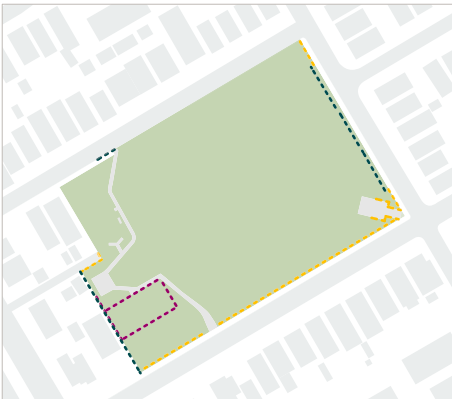
Tree cover & Understorey Planting



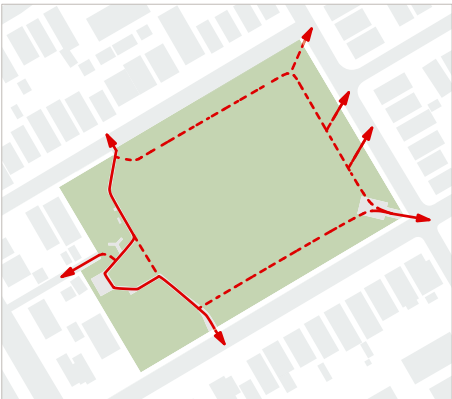
Existing Structures + Facilities



Lighting



Fences + Enclosure



Pedestrian Access Points & Existing Pathways



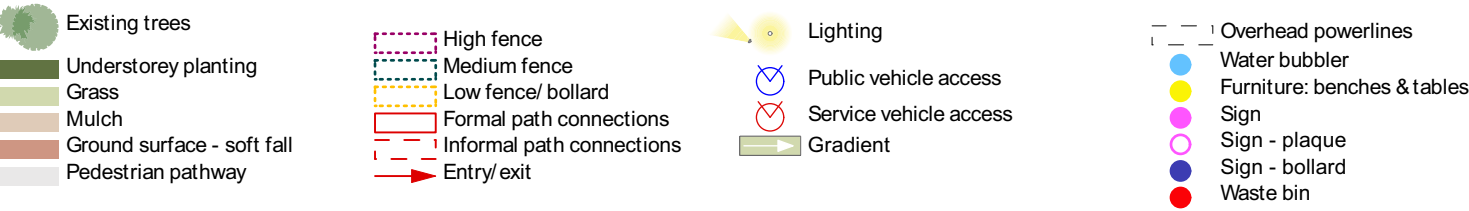
Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Carparking



Sports + Recreation Grounds



Gradient (Approximate)



Following the border along Henry St, a stretch of hedges screen the park from the road. This planting is in average condition. Alongside this hedging a wide area of mulch covers the ground where trees provide shade.

A large area of native shrubs + Eucalyptus trees occupy the corner of the park at Lucy Street to the west. This planting stretches around the playground area to the south, creating some separation between the park and neighbouring dwellings. These gardens are in good condition.

Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces, as it is predominately surrounded by roads. However, within the park, the stretch of established trees offers a large and diverse habitat for local fauna, particularly birds. The native planting along Lucy St is connected to the greater flank of trees and promotes biodiversity.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

Existing pathways in the park are concrete, with a small area of bitumen at the corner of Henry + Frederick St. The area surrounding the playground is wood chipped with soft-fall pads at the base of equipment. A concrete kerb around the perimeter holds wood-chip in place. Surfaces around the playground are in good condition.

The artificial surface on the tennis court is in average condition.

Grass throughout the site is in good condition. Patchy grass is observed in particularly shaded areas. Deterioration of grass is also present along unformed pathways made by park users.

Boundary Conditions

The park shares a boundary with two neighbouring dwellings to the south west. A tall fence and screen protects these houses from tennis balls, while a strip of planting offers privacy and screening as well.

A low timber bollard along Frederick St creates some boundary distinction, but does not separate balls or dogs from the road. Along Lucy St, only a concrete kerb separates the park from the road. A low fence and hedge along Henry St does create separation between the park and the road.

Services & Drainage

There are a series of overhead power lines providing electricity to the light posts around the sporting ground.

Many concerns were raised on missed games during inclement weather, mostly due to the unlevelled field and poor drainage.

Degradation to grassed areas is observed throughout the park due to pooling water, particularly towards Henry Street.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

There are designated entry points from all four boundaries into the park. A stretch of concrete paths connect Fredrick Street and Lucy Street at the south west end of the park. The existing paths are in good condition, but do not follow the most ergonomic route for the needs of the public. At the park entry on the corner of Henry and Fredrick Street, a small section of concrete path comes to a dead end. Two other entry points from the north east have mulch paths which end once inside the park, forcing users to walk through a combination of mulch and dirt when entering the park from Henry St.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is no vehicle access into the park, however service vehicles have access via a rear lane from Church Street, to the south west of the park. A removable chain fence blocks access to general cars. There is no car parking on site and street parking is very limited. Parking is not permitted on the park side of Frederick or Lucy Street.

Sporting Facilities

The park serves a number of sporting communities for a range of activities, including football, cricket, tennis and netball.

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is considered unhygienic and unpleasant. A lack of storage has forced the local club to use the shower/change amenities as a storage room.

The function of existing sports field is impaired by its uneven surface, mounding up towards the centre at the cricket pitch. Ongoing drainage issues also have negative impacts on the field and limit its use by local sports clubs.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

To the corner of Henry and Frederick Street is a painted timber entryway pergola in average condition. Two plaques are set into the bitumen here with historical information of the park.

A small amenities block to the south west boundary of the park provides a male + female accessible toilet and shower facilities which are used as storage rooms by the local sports club. This building is in poor condition and not suited to the needs of the community.

Two large shade sails cover a playground adjacent to the amenities block. These sails provide adequate coverage and are in good condition.



01



02



03



04



05



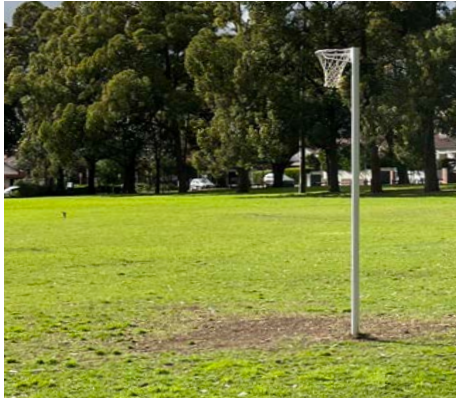
06



07



08



09



10



11



12

01. Painted timber pergola at corner of Frederick + Henry St / 02. Playground tower / 03. Swing set + shade structure / 04. Park sign along Frederick St. / 05. Tennis court / 06. Fencing at rear lane-way off Church St. / 07. Water tank + pump station / 08. Typical park bench / 09. Netball hoop / 10. Shaded grassy areas alongside Lucy St. / 11. Public toilet / 12. Amenities block

Constraints + Opportunities

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves.

There are opportunities to:

- Upgrade existing amenities. Consider how an extension of the existing block could better serve the needs of the community.
- Reconsider the function of current amenities block.
- Upgrade existing public toilets.
- Improve signage consistency throughout the zone.
- Remove contradictory, confusing and low quality signage.
- Establish a design for new signage that communicates the civic and historic character of the park.
- Investigate options for understorey planting to select areas along Frederick Street.
- Improve the surface quality and level of the sports field.
- Improve circulation and accessibility with additional pathways.
- Future proof existing tree cover by planting of new trees.



View of Community Consultation in Progress. Photography by Welsh + Major.

Overview + Engagement Strategies

1.0 Summary

Inner West Council engaged the community on their enjoyment of Hammond Park, with a view to the preparation of a 10-year plan, which includes a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out with two drop-in sessions at Hammond Park and via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

1.1 Background

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Community engagement is a critical step in the preparation of a Plan of Management, forming one of the first stages of the process. Community feedback is then taken into consideration alongside stakeholders and expert advice to form a draft plan of management and master plan, which is presented for further community input prior to council endorsement of the final document

Inner West Council has established a parks planning priority list, which nominates which open spaces it feels are in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Hammond Park has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West Council area.

The purpose of engagement was to establish key issues that the community have in relation to Hammond Park, as well as highlighting aspects of the park which are highly valued. Contributors were encouraged to include ideas, comments and suggestions to assist in prioritising the focus of key strategies and outcomes for the future.

1.2 Engagement method

The methods of engagement were:

- Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au through survey and user posts
- Drop-in sessions held in the park

1.3 Promotion

The engagement initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- Council website
- Email to identified groups

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions.

2.0 Engagement Outcomes

Outcomes of community engagement have been separated into feedback received at the drop-sessions and feedback received through the online survey.

The online Hammond Park page received 781 visits, with 78 contributions made to online forms + discussion.

2.1 Drop-in sessions

Inner West Council held two drop in engagement sessions at Hammond Park, one on Saturday morning 13.08.22, 11am-1pm, and the other on Saturday afternoon 20.08.22, 2-4pm.

The material consisted of two A1 panels, which displayed an overall map of the park and some images of existing or proposed park features in order to prompt discussion.

2.2 Online Survey

The online survey included multiple choice and essay style questions for more detailed feedback. Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs. Written responses have been themed to create word maps accompanied by summarised responses.

2.3 Online 'Share your visions'

The YSIW website also offered the opportunity for members of the community to post a public comment on the page, to which other users could like, dislike and comment in response. Posts to the page have been collated and summarised in this document.

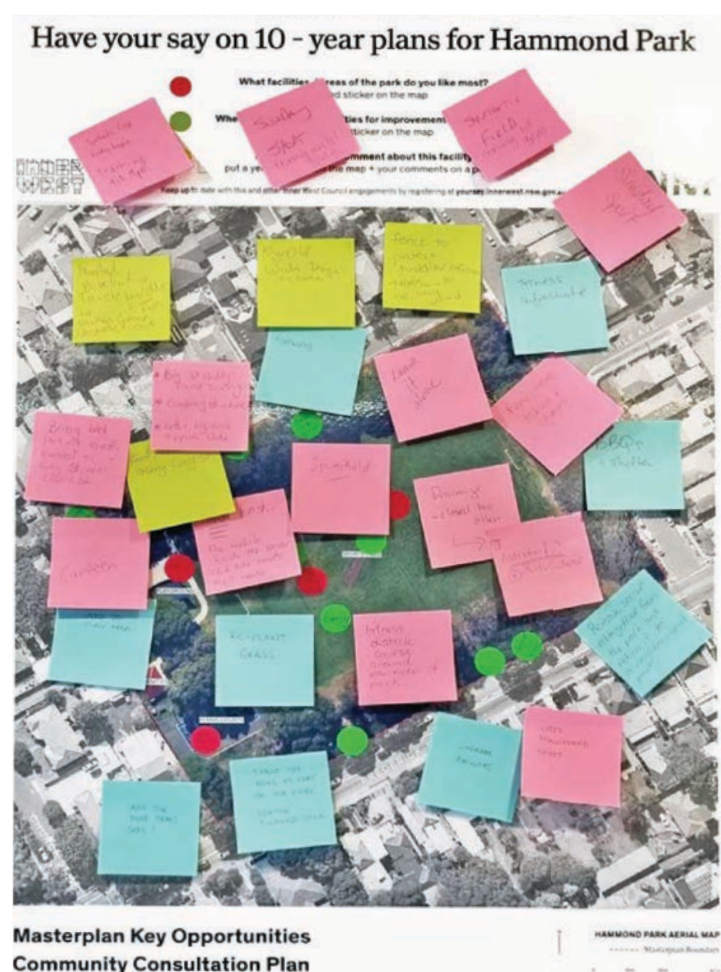
2.4 Stakeholder meetings

2.1 Drop In Sessions

Overview

To engage park users during the drop-in sessions, two A1 sized printed boards were used. The first panel highlighted with labels the existing features of the park, shown on a map. The second panel presented eight image prompts of both existing and proposed features of the park. Park visitors were asked to identify the facilities and areas they liked the most, and which facilities and areas they felt had room for improvement, through coloured stickers on the panels. Further comments were welcomed through post-it-notes on the panels and A4 forms which participants could fill in.

The sessions were productive with a number of park visitors approaching the team and engaging with the material to have their say. The comments have been themed and are presented without hierarchy.



2.1 Drop In Sessions

Community feedback has been themed for ease of reference:

Movement and parking

- Users requested formal paths on the perimeter of the park to improve accessibility for prams and wheelchairs.
- There was some concern around parking and traffic management. Residents sought improvements at the intersection between Henry and Fredrick Street, traffic management to reduce the inconvenience to residents, and to ensure pedestrian safety.
- The majority of users were unhappy with the recently removed parking on Lucy Street, near Church Street.
- There was a high support to install a fence around the perimeter of the park, specifically along Frederick Street to reduce balls going onto the road and protect young children from traffic.

Recreational use

- Users requested lighting, safety and access improvements to enable early morning and evening use.
- There was a lot of support for retaining on/off-leash dog areas in the park.
- Some users were in favour of a community fitness station for passive exercise and stretching, although more park users were against additional built items.
- Users expressed their enjoyment of places to sit and the informal nature of these spaces was valued.
- There was one suggestion for increased organised community events and activities in the park such as outdoor yoga, dog training sessions, dance, Tai Chi.
- Users identified less frequented flat areas as having potential to support a greater range of activities in the park. Suggested activities include a kick wall, a basketball half stand/hoop and tennis table.
- Many users enjoyed the tennis court and enjoyed the casual cost free booking system.
- Many users love using the playground but have suggestions for it to be more inclusive for all ages, to add a merry go round, 'net' swing and a climbing structure.
- Users appreciated the seating around the playground for supervision of children and requested it be maintained or expanded upon.

Playing fields and organised sport

- A few of participants wanted to see more community use of the oval and felt the park was dominated by organised sports.
- The poor condition of player facilities, and lack of facilities for female and non-binary players were flagged as priority items to address including.
- Sports users requested more storage.
- A major concern was the condition of the existing sports field. Users requested that the field be levelled for the safety of organised sports and maximise field usage.
- Users also identified ongoing drainage issues which had regular impacts on organised sports, forcing the oval to close frequently.
- Many respondents expressed strong opposition to synthetic playing surfaces due to negative environmental impacts and impacts for passive park users.
- In contrast many users were supportive of a synthetic pitch as a solution to ongoing drainage issues.
- A few participants suggested a roll-out cricket pitch.
- There was a lot of support for retention and maintenance of the tennis court.

Lighting

- Many users were keen for the park to be better lit for early morning and evening recreation to edge of park, to field + tennis court.
- Many users brought up lighting to be upgraded for hours of use to be increased at winter and weekends.

Facilities and furniture

- Most users were enthusiastic about having a on site canteen/kiosk for sporting events. Other users suggested a cafe for breakfast and lunch. As an alternative a few suggested a food truck location be provided.
- Users were supportive of new or upgraded amenities (toilets + change rooms), noting the lack of accessibility, poor lighting, poor presentation.
- There was support for more seating in ambient and shaded locations around the park, and for more water stations.
- Some users were keen to add a BBQ Shelter.
- Users requested improved provisions for waste disposal - ,

more bins in more locations.

- Some users requested additional tables and seating around the perimeter of the sports field.

Biodiversity and green space

- There was support for increased native understorey planting to provide habitat and food for birds.
- Many residents enjoy the big open space and requested the 'openness' of the park be retained.
- Some comments were made about unhealthy trees and the planting of large generational trees alongside narrow footpaths not being the best solution.

History + sense of place

- The majority of users were keen for the park to remain essentially as it is, a big open space as a community asset.
- Some users stressed the importance of maintaining the informal character and laid back vibe of the park and that is isn't only a sporting ground.
- A greater presence and interpretation of the site's history was identified as something that would enhance visiting the park.

Maintenance

- Ongoing maintenance of the field to maximise use was a common request from park users.
- Signage and entry gates and lettering, were also flagged as requiring maintenance.
- Users requested lighting be regularly maintained.

2.2 Online Survey

Overview

An online survey was conducted in August and September 2022 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Hammond Park. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for five weeks from 04.08.22 to 11.09.22.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs. Text based responses to the essay style questions have been grouped into themes, and issues which featured the most prominently have been summarised below. Text based responses are presented alongside word maps which highlight common responses.

Of all participants to the site, 53 submissions were made to the online survey. Participants could choose to skip questions if they preferred. The percentage of participants who answered the question is stated alongside the figure diagrams throughout this document.

Demographics of Participants

Q1: Age Group

See figure 1

Of the 53 participants who contributed to the online survey none were below 18 years of age and only 1 person was within the 25-34 age bracket. The largest age bracket was 45-54 year olds at 40% of the total number of participants. No contributions were made by persons over 75 years of age. 3 people, 5.6% of those surveyed preferred not to state their age.

Q2: Gender

See figure 2

22 participants identified as female, contributing to 42% of responses, while 26, 55%, identified as male. No participants identified themselves as non-binary or using other pronouns. Two users preferred not to comment on gender.

Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

See figure 3

No participants identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Three participants, 5.7%, preferred not to say.

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

See figure 4

When asked about disability status, 3 users, 5.7%, identified as having a disability. Three persons preferred not to say and the remaining other 47 users answered no.

Q5: Suburb

See figure 5

Participants were asked to state their suburb/place of residence in the survey. Of the 53 responses, the majority, 66% of users, were from Ashfield. Croydon and Marrickville, at 5.7%, were the second largest bracket of users, followed by Haberfield. Users from neighbouring suburbs made contributions. All participants were from Sydney.

Q6: How do you get to Hammond Park?

See figure 6

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, but allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable. 1 person surveyed skipped this question.

The majority of park users who were surveyed walk to Hammond Park as their primary mode of transport, 56%. Driving to the park was the second highest result with 54%. 11.5% of respondents cycle to the park and 8% run. Only 3 people surveyed, 5.7%, use public transport to get to the park. No other means of transport to the park were identified.

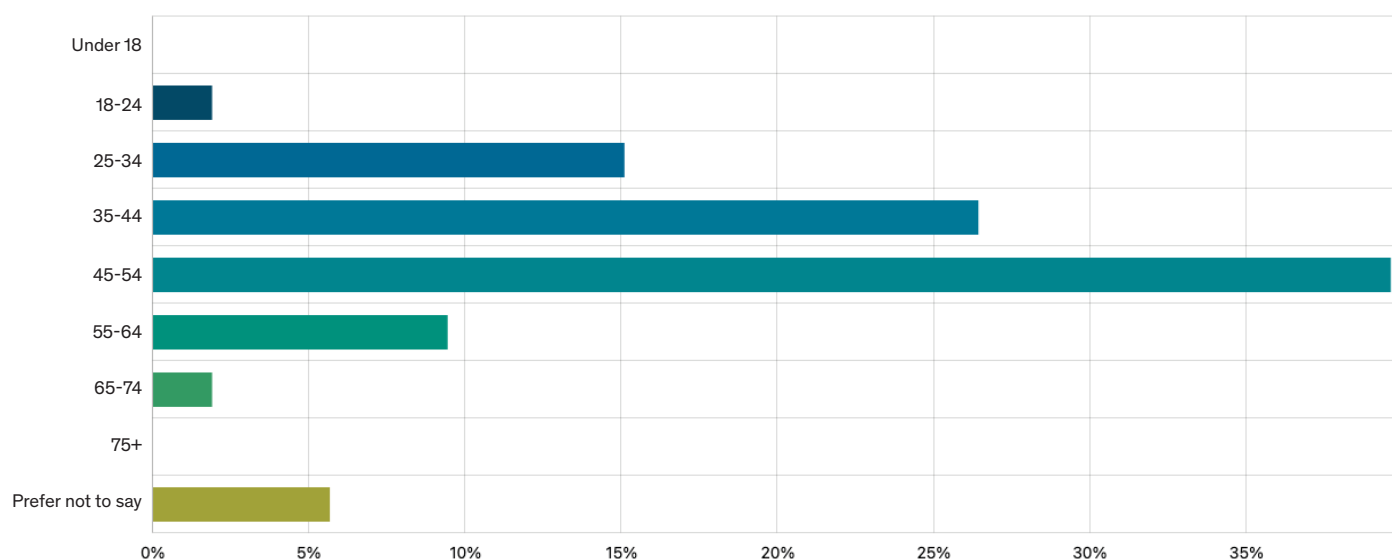
Q7: How often do you visit Hammond Park?

See figure 7

Of those surveyed, 24.5% of users frequently visit Hammond Park. This 25% stated that they visit daily or multiple times a week. The majority of users, 60%, stated that they visit the park weekly. While 13% of participants visit the park a few times a month and 1 person, 2%, rarely visits the park.

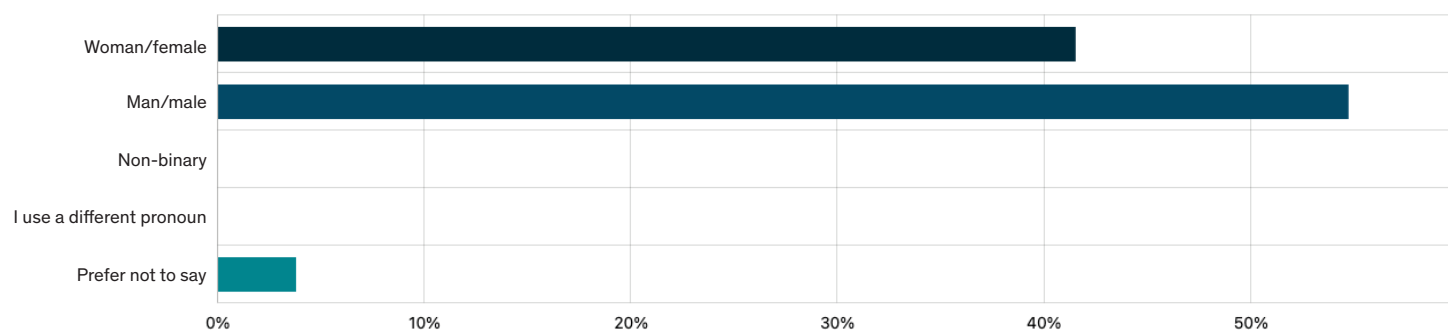
Q1: Age Group

Figure 1. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



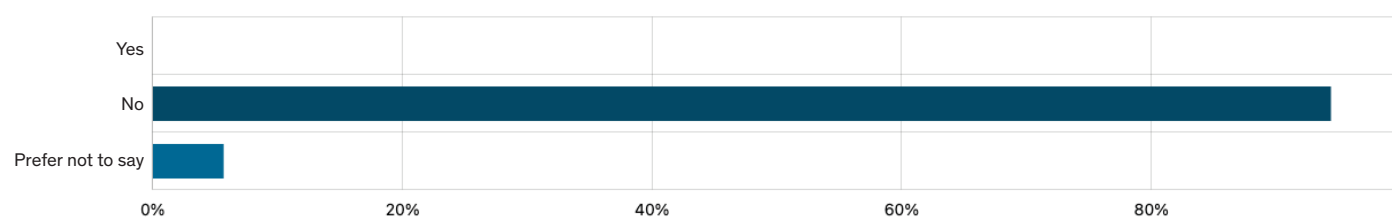
Q2: Gender

Figure 2. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

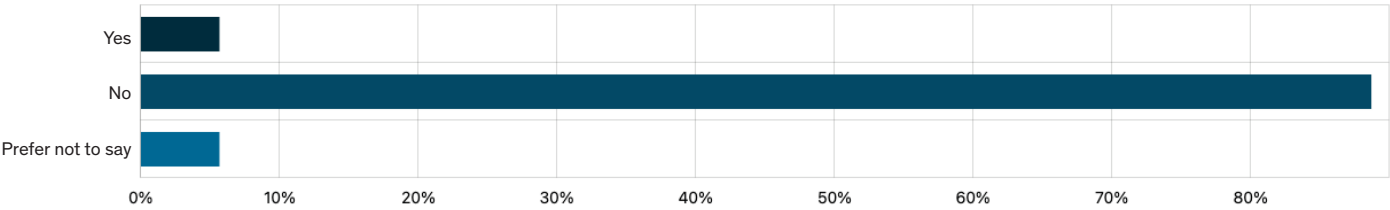
Figure 3. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



2.2 Online Survey

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

Figure 4. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



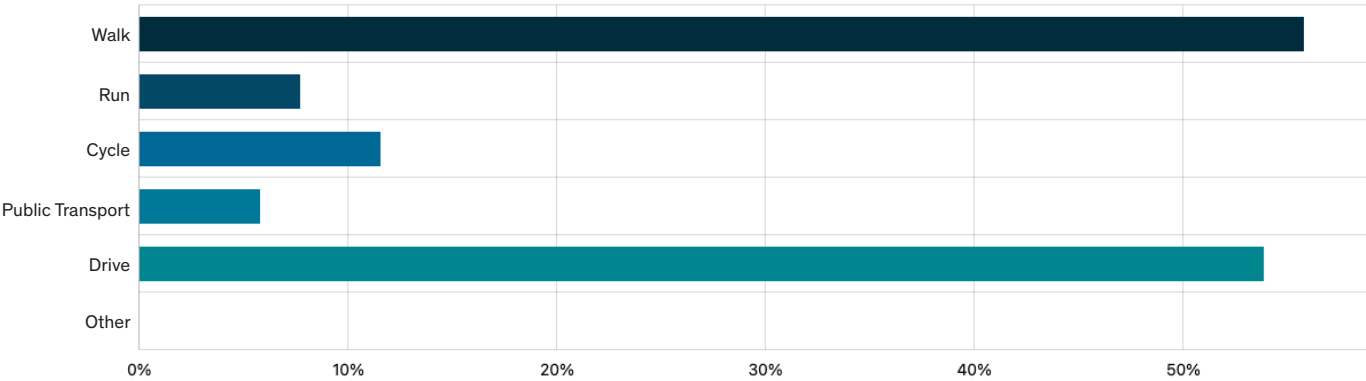
Q5: Suburb

Figure 5. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



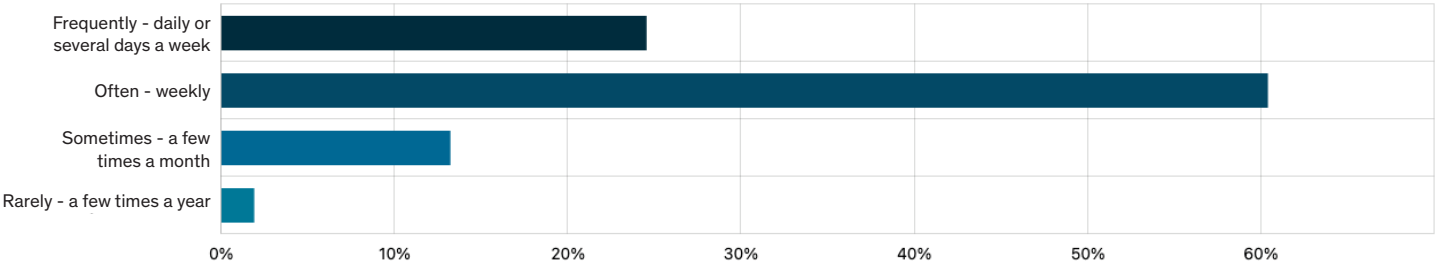
Q6: How do you get to Hammond Park?

Figure 6. Skipped: 1 | Answered: 52 (98.11%)



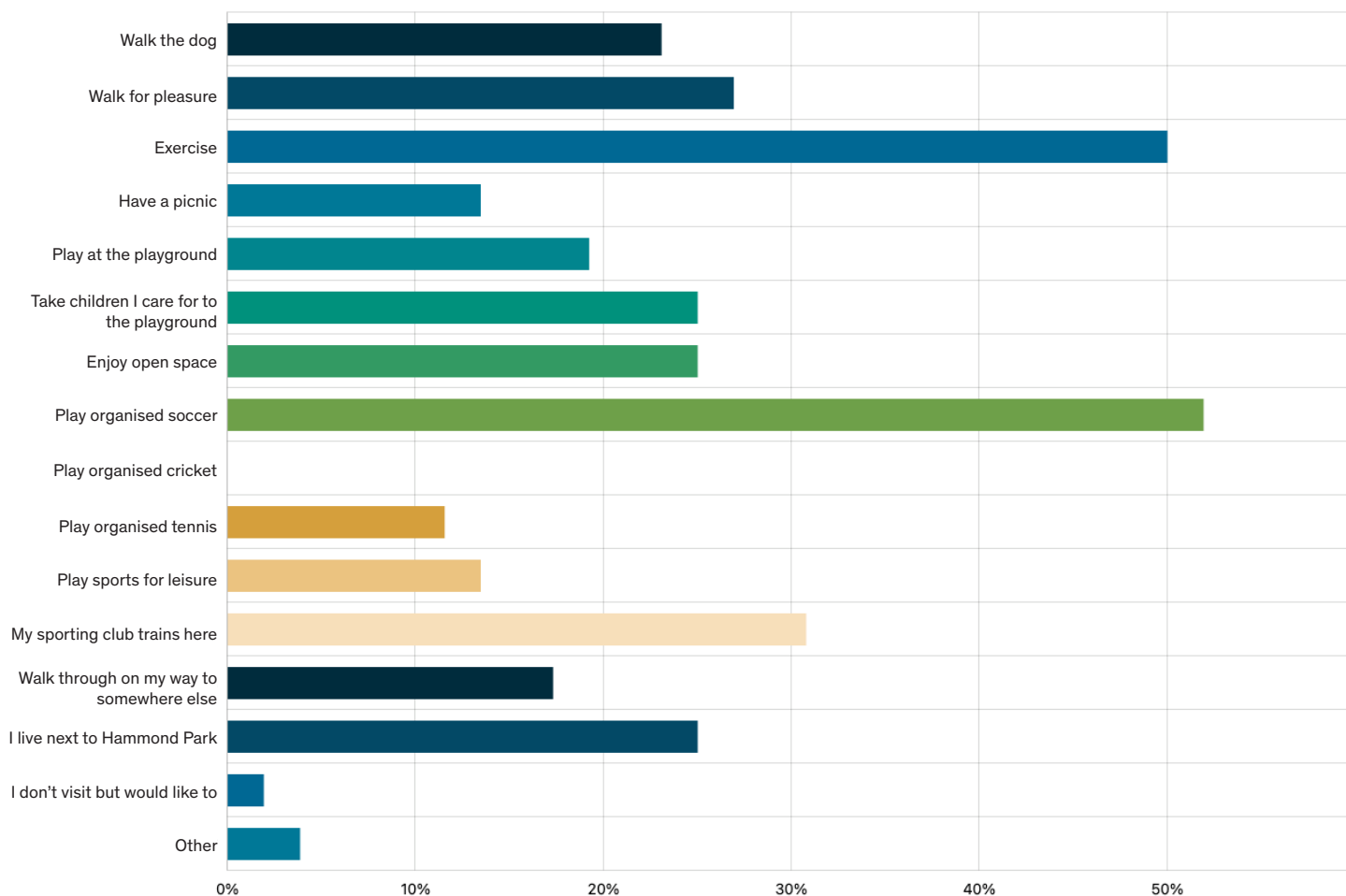
Q7: How often do you visit Hammond Park?

Figure 7. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Hammond Park?

Figure 8. Skipped: 1 | Answered: 52 (98.11%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Hammond Park?

See figure 8

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, but allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable. On average, users selected more than three responses to the question, highlighting the diversity of park use + activity.

The most frequently recorded answer was to 'Play organised soccer' at 52% of surveyed users. To 'Exercise' was the second highest at 50%. 'My sporting club plays here', 30.7%, and

walking for pleasure, 27%, were also common answers.

None of users surveyed identified organised cricket as a reason they visit the park. 11.5% of users do visit the park to play organised tennis and 13.5% visit to play sports for leisure.

2.2 Online Survey

Q9: What stops you from visiting Hammond Park?

This essay style question received no input from participants. As such, no data or word cloud for this question is included in this document.

Q10: Please describe what you value about Hammond Park, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

See figure 9

Most participants engaged with this question, many of whom left thorough responses and highlighted a number of positive attributes of the park within their responses. As highlighted in the word map, 'Open Green Space' was identified as the parks biggest asset.

The root of what users valued most about Hammond Park was repeatedly attributed to:

- Access to open green space in a dense residential environment;
- The large established trees which create separation from the streets and harbour a sense of relaxation within the park;
- The existing native planting which promotes biodiversity;
- Interaction with dogs, their owners and the community;
- Availability of open space for use by casual and organised recreation/exercise;
- The variety of informal activities catered for by the park;
- The intimate local feeling within the park which promotes a family friendly atmosphere for users;
- The play equipment;
- Attending organised sport;
- The close proximity of the park for local players and schools who use it for organised sports;
- The relaxed booking system of the tennis court, including the free admission;
- The simplicity and overall lack of built structures in the park;
- The historic value of the park and the ability of the park to hold on to the history of the site.
- The affiliation with the Ashfield Pirates.

Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

See figure 10

Successful aspects of Hammond Park were highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel safe when they visit Hammond Park during the

day, 83%;

- 77% of users think Hammond Park has a nice character;
- The majority of users, 73.5%, feel apart of the community when they visit.

Less successful aspects of Hammond Park were also highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day;
- Less than half of users feel that the park is well maintained.
- Only 42.3% of those surveyed feel the park meets the needs of the community.
- 42.3% of users agreed that it was easy to find information on the park. Many respondents were unsure.

Q12: What don't you like about Hammond Park?

See figure 11

- Poor drainage and the implications of rain on the sports field + organised sports.
- The general surface condition of the sports field, specifically the uneven level of the field and the hump in the middle.
- The overall condition of the grass around the field, including patches areas under shading trees.
- Limitations placed upon organised sports, specifically the limited hours compared to other parks in the LGA and age groups allowed to use the field.
- Condition of the lighting for organised sports at night.
- General lack of fencing along Lucy and Frederick St which users identify as important for safety of dogs and children playing sports.
- Lack of pathways around the perimeter of the park, specifically along Frederick Street.
- Lack of understorey planting along Frederick Street, which users identified as a potential tool to combat grass degradation in shady areas and block noise pollution from the road.
- Noise pollution from surrounding streets.
- Speed of cars traveling along surrounding streets.
- Lack of parking, specifically on sports days.
- The lack of variation in seating arrangements and overall lack of seating along Frederick Street.
- Lack of bins and smelly nature of two current bins within the park.
- Unappealing toilet facilities which are not inclusive to all park users.
- Lack of sporting amenities, which don't meet the needs of the local sporting clubs.

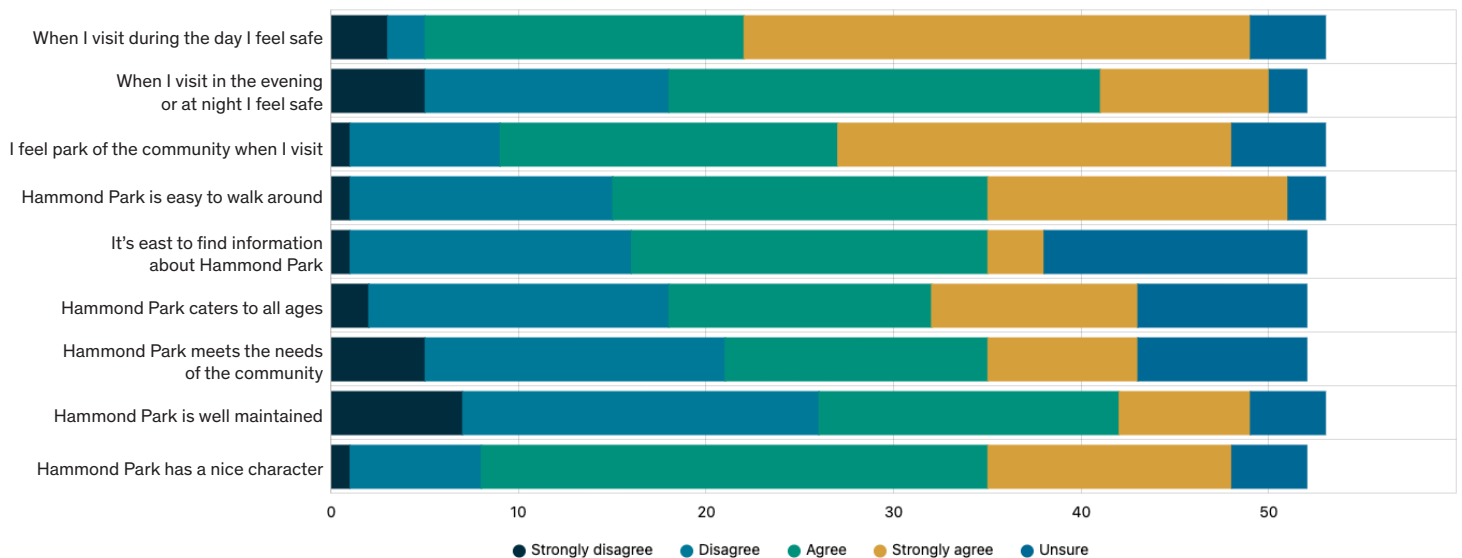
Q10: Please describe what you value about Hammond Park, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

Figure 9. Skipped: 3 | Answered: 50 (94.34%)



Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Figure 10. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 53 (100%)



Q12: What don't you like about Hammond Park?

Figure 11. Skipped: 3 | Answered: 50 (94.34%)



2.2 Online Survey

- The impact that the lack of paths has on accessibility for older/less mobile park users.
- Only one tennis court.
- Lack of food and beverage provisions, particularly on game days.
- Limited play and exercise equipment for older kids/adults.
- The impacts of organised sports on the local community, including the increased demand on parking, noise and constant occupation of the sporting facilities.
- Lack of a basketball hoop.
- The ongoing dumping of wood chips in the park along Henry Street.
- The lack of sheltered sitting areas for spectators or picnic goers.
- That the facilities are visually run down and generally in poor condition.

Q13: What should be the main priority for the park planning?

See figure 12

- Improving the condition of the sporting field for both organised sports and passive use.
- Fencing along Frederick Street for the safety of park users, dogs and traffic.
- To reflect the needs of the whole community, making sure that Hammond Park considers and accommodates everyone who uses it.
- Food and drink provisions. Some participants recommended a canteen while other suggested a designated space for a temporary food cart within the park.
- Maximising community use, building upon current assets while retaining the parks character.
- Better maintenance of the park, specifically in regards to surface condition.
- Maintaining open space and limited future development in the park which may threaten the openness of the park.
- Better toilet facilities which are inclusive of minority groups.
- Dog friendly, and support of community connection through dogs.
- Expansion of native planting and increased biodiversity.
- Extended hours for organised sports and reduced limitations of sporting activities.
- Reducing noise pollution from surrounding streets.
- Maintaining the calm and relaxing qualities of the park.

- An additional tennis court to meet demand.
- Table tennis.
- Ongoing community consultation for decisions made about the park.
- Upgrades to lighting, specifically sport lighting for organised sports.

Q14: Do you have any other comments about Hammond Park?

See figure 13

The demand for additional fencing along Frederick and Lucy Street was highlighted by repetitive comments of concern. Users felt that a fence, specifically along Frederick Street, would increase the safety of junior sports players and dogs, as well as traffic which could be disrupted by balls on the road.

As seen throughout responses to all questions, there were conflicting answers in regards to organised sports.

A park user stated in support of organised sports “that the park is a resource belonging to the greater Inner West community”, while another commented that “the neighbourhood can’t support the growth of organised sport”. Overall there seemed to be conflicting comments in regards to organised sports.

One comment stated that the “informal/casual park that anyone in the community can use any time is it’s greatest character”.

Those in favour of organised sports had comments on the state of the existing facilities. Most users made a comment on the dilapidated state of the sports field, requesting it be levelled and resurfaced. Members of the local sports club made specific comments highlighting that the amenities didn’t support the current sporting practice, that the existing toilets and changing rooms were in poor condition. Alongside these requests were those advocating for a canteen to support the local sports club. Members of the club also requested additional storage as a solution to the overflow of equipment stored in the current change rooms.

One user commented that the club and park “brought so many communities together and created a beautiful sense of belonging”.

Other users suggested that a wide path around the parks perimeter, able to support pedestrians and cyclists, would be an asset to the community. Specifically, a user suggested wide paths to increase mobility of visually impaired/elderly members of the community.

One request was made for simple outdoor gym equipment in the park to promote passive exercise. This user suggested pull up bars and dip bars.

Likewise, a half basketball court was suggested for passive use by the local community.

One park user requested table tennis in the park. They commented on the benefits of table tennis in a neighbouring park during Covid.

A number of additional comments were left in regards to planting and the existing vegetation on site. Multiple users commented on the large trees and advocated that they be protected. Users liked the existing understorey planting, but felt it could

be expanded upon to for the 'sense of calm' and to promote biodiversity. A user suggested that the expansion of understorey planting could be used as a natural boarder around the park.

Multiple users stated that they didn't want to see built infrastructure expanded. It was said that "the parks simplicity and lack of clutter is very appealing".

Concerns about traffic/parking implications on sports days were readdressed with responses to this question. "Traffic on organised sport days is terrible with competition for parking in the area".

The park was described as "well loved" and "a local jewel". One comment stated that the park "adds spirit to the local area".

Q13: What should be the main priority for the park planning?

Figure 12. Skipped: 3 | Answered: 50 (94.34%)



Q14: Do you have any other comments about Hammond Park?

Figure 13. Skipped: 27 | Answered: 26 (49.06%)



2.3 Share Your Visions

Overview

The Community were also encouraged to make a post on the YSIW website. These posts, in the structure of a social media platform, could be liked and commented on to encourage community members to engage with one others views on the park.

The page received 20 posts which received 35 likes/comments from other users.

The outcomes of the ‘Shared Visions’ for Hammond Park are summarised below:

Outcomes

“Not a synthetic surface. This is not just a soccer field.”

This post suggested against synthetic sports surfaces in the park as it does not serve the needs of the whole community. It also raised concerns about the implications on safety and visibility if planting were added to screen the park from Frederick Street.

“Good local park”

This post was left by a user who frequently uses the park for sports. They raised concern about the impact of rain on sports games/training.

“Hammond Park for tweens and teens”

This user made the suggestion of play equipment for bigger kids, such as hammocks and net-swings. The addition of a BBQ area and shelter was raised, as well as a pedestrian crossing on Frederick Street for safe access into the park. This comment received one like from another user.

“Improvements needs to benefit children in the community”

This comment, which received one like, addressed the drainage issues of the field and the impacts of rain on local sports. They suggested that a synthetic surface might be the only solution. Also included in the comment was the poor quality of toilet and changing facilities, specifically that they are less inclusive to female sport players.

“Variety of play surfaces and equipment”

Suggested more natural play objects, with reference to Lizard Log Nature Playground in Western Sydney.

“Native understorey plantings”

This comment encouraged the development of native planting and suggested that planting be used to create a barrier between



Native understorey plantings

Posted by Sue Pritchard | 2 months ago

Would be great to have local native understorey plantings under trees along Frederick Street and other boundaries to create a visual and physical barrier between busy roads and the park, to create a greater sense of calm in the park and provide much...

2 Likes 3 Comments

Above: example of ‘post’ format from YSIW website.

the park and Frederick Street. This comment received 2 likes and two comments from other contributors who agreed. One user disagreed and disliked the post.

“Create traffic calming for crossings/improved gateway to Ashfield”

This post addressed the safety concerns of narrow pedestrian paths along Frederick Street and the safety implications from speeding cars. It was suggested that a pedestrian crossing be added. This post received three likes and one comment.

“Walking track”

This user requested a path around the parks perimeter suited to pedestrians, bikes and other activities. A bubbler was also requested.

“Ashfield Pirates Under 11’s Soccer 2022”

This user highlighted the significance of community sports within the park and the positive development and well-being as a result of community sports. This post received two likes.

“It is not all about sport”

This user addressed a lack of support for any additional built infrastructure, specifically anything for the purposes of sports which has implications on general park users. They recommended some new bins + lighting to service the whole park, not just sporting field.

“So much potential”

This user was keen to see improvements to sporting facilities. The addressed the condition of the field, amenities and lighting which could be improved. This post had three likes and one dislike.

“Make it safer”

This post addressed the needed improvements to the field and drainage. It also suggested improvements to vehicle safety and the poor quality of the facilities. This post received two likes.

“A flat, better draining pitch please.”

This user stated that the condition of the pitch was borderline dangerous and should be addressed. This post received two likes.

“The worst ground in the Inner West”

This post also requested work to the sports field surface, suggesting that a synthetic field might be beneficial to the community. Concerns were also raised around lighting, with the proposal that lighting be improved to allow the park to stay open until 9pm.

“Outdoor gym”

This user requested some casual outdoor fitness equipment be added to the park. Three others supported this comment with a like.

“Football facilities need updating”

This comment reiterated the issues addressed in regards to the dilapidated condition of the sports field, lighting and amenities. The user suggested the new lights at Pratten Park be used for reference.

“Like and don’t like”

This user requested a levelling of the field and upgraded lighting

to the tennis courts. This post received two likes.

“Better facilities for sports!”

This post commented on the required upgrades to the sporting facilities and field alongside safety concerns as a result of the lack of fence along Frederick Street.

“Fenced playground”

The park commented that they would visit the park more if the playground was fenced for younger children.

“Table Tennis table?”

This user requested an outdoor table tennis table.